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PONOMAREV SPEAKS ON COMINTERN ANNIVERSARY, PRC NATIONALISM

ID170848 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1538 GMT 16 Mar 79 ID

[Text] Moscow, 16 March, TASS--"The unity of communists, the internationalist solidarity of the working class and the working people of the whole world are an important prerequisite for further strengthening the position of socialism and communism, for guaranteeing universal peace and national independence of all peoples and for successful struggle for democracy and socialism," stated Academic Boris Ponomarev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. He was speaking here today at a scientific conference devoted to the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Communist International (Comintern).

The creation of the Comintern is always linked with the name of great Lenin and with the October Revolution, Boris Ponomarev said, but this does not mean that the Comintern was the handiwork of the Bolsheviks' party alone, the handiwork of "Moscow," as bourgeois propaganda and the rightist reformists try to portray. It was proclaimed by representatives from 35 communist and leftwing socialist parties and groups from 21 countries of Europe, America and Asia.

Speaking of the Comintern's activity, Boris Ponomarev noted that it "ushered in the beginning of the modern communist movement. It helped healthy forces in the international workers' movement erect a barrier against compromise with the bourgeoisie and overcome reformism and it promoted the creation of revolutionary parties of a new type internationally... Forming in its ranks and passing through hardening in combat [proshli boyevuyu zakalky] were the cadres of tested leaders of the workers movement of the Leninist mold, outstanding proletarian leaders known now throughout the whole world, and first among them must be cited the remarkable man and revolutionary-Leninist, Georgi Dimitrov.

"The Comintern, the orator continued, raised high the banner of struggle against the policies of war and aggression, and against world war. It did not cease sounding the alarm, warning about the threat of war, and tirelessly explaining to the people whence the danger of war came, exposing imperialism as the source of war and the most reactionary imperialist circles as the instigators. At the same time the Comintern saw forces capable of averting a new world war. The decisive force among them was socialism, the state of the workers and peasants, the Soviet Union, the policies of which are bringing peace not only to its own country but to all peoples.

The Comintern was the first to expose the nature of fascism and to point out its danger. Moreover, this exposure was very profound. The Comintern gave a powerful stimulus to the struggle for unity of the working class and working people on a principled, class, anti-imperialist basis.

The Comintern's analysis of problems of anticolonial revolutions and the national liberation movement in general, the fact that it revealed the motive forces of this movement, its nature and the prospects for it, was also of tremendous significance, the speaker said.

In practice the Comintern inspired, nurtured and organized international proletarian solidarity and the solidarity with liberation, with anti-imperialist movements. "As its foremost task the Comintern regarded mobilization of the masses in support of the struggle against colonial oppression, whether in North Africa, or Indonesia, India or Vietnam; it energetically came out in support of the Chinese revolution, against the aggression of the Japanese imperialism in China, against the aggression of fascist Italy in Ethiopia.

"The glorious feats of international brigades, formed with the Comintern's active participation to rebuff fascism in Spain, will never be forgotten," the speaker said.

Today, when Marxist researchers and representatives of various fraternal parties turn to analyzing the Comintern's activities, they are motivated not merely and not simply by an interest in history, noted the speaker. "Fidelity to the basic principles of the scientific revolutionary world view and concern for its creative development in accordance with the new historical experience--this is also the key of the Marxist-Leninist approach to problems of the history of the communist movement."

"Genuine innovation has nothing in common with nihilism regarding historical experience, rejecting the principles of theory and practice of Marxism-Leninism. An attitude of constant criticism with regard to the real gains of world socialism, an attitude of mere negation, not only does not open up creative thought but, on the contrary, clips its wings, deprives creative search of its purposefulness and reliable internal orientation. Worst of all, however, is that such an attitude is fraught with distortions in policy and threatens not simply individual mistakes but major defeats.

"The sort of disastrous consequences that renunciation of the ideological and political heritage of Marxism-Leninism leads to can be seen in the tragic example of the CCP. Each step by the Maoist group away from Marxism-Leninism has signified a new stage in its moral and political decline and degeneration. The utmost, concentrated expression of this degradation is seen in Beijing's shameful act, its armed aggression against Socialist Vietnam," the orator said.

"This perfidious and cynical aggression flouts all the principles of internationalism. It clearly demonstrates what nationalism, which has been taken to extreme limits in China, leads to."

All of this, he stressed, clearly shows that the observance of the principles of internationalism and opposition to manifestations of nationalism and chauvinism is a composite part of the struggle against the danger of war. "Communist parties have angrily condemned Beijing's adventure. Their unanimous rebuff to the infringements against a socialist country and their ardent solidarity with the fraternal Vietnamese Communist Party have once more clearly and convincingly shown the vital strength of the internationalist traditions of our movement."

CEMA-MEXICO COMMISSION SESSION OPENS IN BUDAPEST

LD220005 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1639 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Budapest, 21 March--A session of the mixed CEMA-Mexico commission opened here today. This commission was set up in 1975 on the basis of a signed agreement on cooperation between CEMA and Mexico.

Matters pertaining to economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the CEMA member countries and Mexico will be reviewed during the session, the results of the work that has been done will be summed up and further plans will be drawn up.

BRATISLAVA CONFERENCE ON SOCIALIST ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

LD211752 Moscow TASS in English 1615 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Bratislava, March 21, TASS--An international conference "Socialist Economic Integration and the 30th Anniversary of the CMEA" opened here. In their speeches the conference participants noted that in the 30 years the CMEA member-states scored considerable successes in industrial production, science and technology, and development of agriculture.

The present period of the process of integration is characterised by transition from the coordination of economic plans to joint planning in basic fields of material production, from scientific and technical cooperation to joint study of basic problems, and from consultations on economic questions to their joint solution, the conference delegates stressed.

CEMA TRANSPORT PANEL MEETS, HEARS VIETNAM AID REQUEST

LD211427 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 79 p 4 LD

[Text] An extraordinary session of the CEMA Permanent Commission on Transport ended in Moscow 14 March. There was discussion of the progress in preparing agreement on the implementation of measures envisaged by the draft long-term targeted program for cooperation in the sphere of transport links between CEMA countries. Questions of improving the use of the joint freightcar pool were also examined.

The commission adopted a decision on preparations for examining proposals by the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam that assistance be given to Vietnam in the restoration and development of transport.

During the session an agreement was signed on the development of railroad border transit between Hungary and the USSR.

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, TRANSPORT WITHIN CEMA DISCUSSED

LD121515 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 March 1979 carries on page 4 a 1,500 word article by M. Zajfryd, Polish communications minister and chairman of the CEMA Permanent Commission on Transport, entitled "By Coordinated Plans" under the rubric "CEMA: Targets, Search and Problems," in which the author discusses economic integration of CEMA countries in the sphere of transport and points out the increasing need for an efficient transport network due to the increasing trade turnover between CEMA countries and the growth of tourism.

LAOS SENDS MESSAGE TO WALDHEIM ON PRC'S SUBVERSION

LD212156 Moscow TASS in English 2104 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] New York, March 21, TASS--The United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has been presented a message from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Laotian People's Democratic Republic which points to the serious situation obtaining on the Laotian-Chinese border. In recent times, especially since the moment of China's intrusion into Vietnam, the message says, the Beijing authorities concentrated along the border with Laos several divisions of their armed forces which are preparing for military operations. Spies are being sent into Laos to conduct subversive propaganda and sow disunity among the country's national minorities.

The Government of the Laotian People's Democratic Republic strongly condemns the interference of Chinese leaders in the internal affairs of Laos and declares that the entire responsibility for the serious consequences of these actions rests with Beijing.

The letter expresses confidence that the United Nations will take appropriate measures to protect peace and stability in Southeast Asia and in the whole world in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations Organisation.

TOKYO PREPARATORY CONFERENCE OF INDUSTRIALIZED STATES OPENS

LD212240 Moscow TASS in English 2212 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 21, TASS--TASS correspondent Nikolay Geronin reports:

The agenda of the Tokyo meeting of leaders of industrialized capitalist countries planned to be held next June and specific aspects of its holding will be discussed by participants in a preparatory conference that opens tomorrow in the Japanese capital. Representatives for the preparatory conference were sent by Japan, USA, FRG, France, Britain, Italy, Canada and also by the Common Market.

In the spotlight of the conference is the lack of balance in trade among the countries represented at the conference. For instance, the negative balance of the USA and EEC countries in trade with Japan in 1978 was respectively 11.6 and 9.2 billion dollars, increasing by one fifth on the previous year.

Japanese concerns flooded U.S. and West European markets with automobiles and T.V. sets, with products of their steel making, textile and chemical industries and many other industries, while barring the way to the flow of goods from the United States and West European countries to Japan.

The participants in the preparatory conference before its official opening addressed to the Japanese Government demands for urgent measures to even out bilateral trade. For instance, special representative of the U.S. President on questions of the Tokyo meeting of leaders of capitalist countries Henry Owen demanded limitation of Japan's export to the USA and removal of barriers to American goods exported to Japan and threatened that Washington will take protectionist measures. But Tokyo has not yielded to this pressure. Observers believe that the Japanese side will be as recalcitrant to its trading partners at the preparatory conference and at the meeting of the seven in June. All this heralds a new aggravation of commercial and economic contradictions among the main imperialist powers.

TASS COMMENTATOR VIEWS WORLDWIDE STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM

LD201802 Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 20, TASS--TASS political commentator Sergey Kulik writes: March 21 is the international day of struggle for elimination of racial discrimination. The day had been designated as such by a UN decision and has been marked since 1966. In recent years racism has developed into one of the most burning international problems, since it is exactly racism that has become the main obstacle to the final elimination of colonialism's last advance posts in Africa. The explosive situation in the Republic of South Africa, the dangerous seats of international tension in Rhodesia and Namibia, and Pretoria's and Salisbury's unceasing military provocations against Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, and Botswana--all are the products of racism. This most abominable phenomenon of our times has one aspect which is directly connected with the problem of human rights. Here are statistics of racism in the Republic of South Africa, statistics which are usually passed over in silence in the West by those who show "concern" for human rights where it is not at all necessary.

In the Republic of South Africa--a full member of the "free world", the country with which practically all Western countries maintain normal diplomatic and economic relations--neither more nor less than three per cent of the population, i.e. approximately 700,000 people, are constantly under arrest or investigation. Eighty per cent of them are persons of African descent, and another 15 per cent are coloureds and Asians. At present more than 110 people sentenced to death are kept in the prisons of the racist regime. Since 1968 to the present period, 560 people have fallen victim to South African executioners. The Republic of South Africa accounts for 90 per cent of all the executions registered in the West. The racists execute one person as a minimum every four days! Responsibility for these horrible crimes rests not only with the rulers of the Republic of South Africa. Together with them the responsibility is also shared by those Western circles which help racists perpetrate these crimes, supply them with arms, maintain economic relations with them, and batten through unbridled exploitation of African workers in the conditions of racist legislation.

South Africa has become the symbol of racism but this does not mean that segregation laws and inequality owing to the colour of skin are characteristic only of that part of our planet. Racism has many faces. It exists wherever capital reigns, and where it has become part and parcel of capitalist reality. The mass unemployment of blacks in the USA and the extermination of Indians in Paraguay, arduous conditions of labour of "imported" workers in Western Europe and the reservations of aborigines in Australia, Zionism in Israel, and chauvinistic hysteria in China--all are racism, too. This is why the struggle against racism, for elimination of racial discrimination becomes today one of the major components of struggle for relaxation of international tensions, for peace and social progress.

MORE ON NONALINED SEMINAR IN JAMAICA

WPC's Chandra Comments

LD201828 Moscow TASS in English 1214 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kingston, March 20, TASS--The international seminar on non-alignment problems, which closed in the capital of Jamaica, has been a major milestone in the preparations for the sixth non-aligned summit scheduled to be held in Havana in September, said Romesh Chandra, president of the World Peace Council.

Speaking in a TASS interview, he stressed that the seminar in Kingston has displayed the growing striving of the non-aligned states for strengthening the unity of actions, for alliance with all the peace forces of the world, above all with the countries of the socialist community.

Delegates to the seminar, R. Chandra pointed out, strongly criticised the Maoist theory of "three worlds", exposed Beijing's claims to the role of the leader of the developing countries, [and] exposed the reactionary essence of China's policy, whose outcome was the aggression against Socialist Vietnam.

As the speeches by the participants in the seminar have shown, he went on to say, the non-aligned states clearly understand that China is pursuing a line of undermining the non-alignment movement and betrayal of national liberation movements, is striking direct alliance with the forces of imperialism, reaction and fascism. The delegates to the forum in Kingston wrathfully condemned Beijing's close ties with the fascist Pinochet regime, with the racialists of the South African Republic, with the imperialist powers of the West and Beijing's aggression against the Vietnamese people.

Appeal Passed

LD211344 Moscow TASS in English 1220 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

["For Peace and Detente"--TASS headline]

[Text] Kingston, March 21, TASS--TASS special correspondent Yuriy Ulyanovskiy reports:

Millions of peace champions in all countries support the basic principles and positions of the nonalignment movement. A statement to this effect is contained in the appeal to heads of state and government of non-alignment problems, which closed in the Jamaican capital.

The non-alignment movement has taken a firm stand on many issues in favour of peace, national independence, justice and social progress, the document points out. Its struggle is directed against imperialism, all forms of colonialism, neocolonialism and racialism. The non-aligned countries resolutely come out with initiatives in favour of detente and disarmament, display full solidarity with the liberation movements. They are showing even greater responsibility in their approach to these objectives now that the imperialists powers are swiftly building up arms and do not stop at acts of aggression and even armed interference.

In conditions of preparations for the sixth non-aligned summit scheduled to be held in Havana in September, the appeal goes on to say, the non-alignment movement meets with even broader support from all peoples. This is most vividly manifest in the actions directed at stepping up the anti-imperialist struggle, deepening detente, disarmament and at socio-economic development.

The joint efforts by the countries of the socialist community and non-aligned states, the document points out, have repeatedly resulted in the defeat of the forces of imperialism and reaction on international issues. This is of vital significance for a further advancement of the forces of peace.

The appeal expresses firm confidence that the non-aligned movement will further consistently adhere to the anti-imperialist positions taken at the conferences in Algiers and Colombo. The Havana conference will undoubtedly enhance its role world-wide.

U.S. STAND ON PRC ATTACK AGAINST VIETNAM REVIEWED

LD211230 Moscow in English to North America 0001 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Viktor Yannicheyev commentary]

[Text] Now that nearly all of Beijing's troops have left Vietnam, the question arises whether the aggression could have been prevented. Here is an opinion from Viktor Yannicheyev.

Washington says the answer is no. Some congressmen have been saying it is impossible to stop something you don't know about. It is true that Beijing did not give the exact date it would send its troops into Vietnam as it did in 1962 when it invaded India. But TIME magazine was right when it said that China's planned invasion was expected and well publicized. When China's Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping was in the United States he said more than once for all to hear that Beijing intended to teach Vietnam a bloody lesson. The United States did not condemn such statements. American Government and political leaders were too involved in the new China game to express any disagreements with Deng Xiaoping. Furthermore, an analysis of Beijing's recent activities left no doubt that China was preparing to invade Vietnam. In the period before the invasion Chinese troops were being regrouped and concentrated on the border. Chinese armed provocation became more frequent, as well as anti-Vietnamese propaganda. The Soviet Union and a number of other countries did not ignore China's militaristic preparations and gave warnings of aggression. The United States was not among these countries, although TIME magazine has reported that a State Department official said the United States knew about the invasion 48 hours in advance.

The very next day after Deng Xiaoping returned from the United States, Chinese troops attacked Vietnam. The whole world condemned this treacherous act. The socialist countries, including the Soviet Union, most of the nonalined countries, and the governments of many capitalist countries, expressed their indignation and demanded that China immediately withdraw its troops. The U.S. Government appealed to China to stop military actions and exhibit restraint. But its actions encouraged the aggression. It is indicative that right in the heat of the intervention, Secretary of the Treasury Michael Blumenthal gave an official visit to Beijing. His plane landed right about the time when India's Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee left China in protest against the aggression. Blumenthal held talks about economic aid to Beijing while Chinese soldiers were burning down Vietnamese settlements and rice fields and killing women, children and old people. This coincidence must have made an important impression on the Chinese leaders.

Many political analysts have commented that the combined efforts of nations could have stopped the Chinese aggressors. Beijing would never have made such an open challenge to Washington if the American administration had been strongly against the intervention in Vietnam. But Washington virtually went along with China's aggression against its neighbors.

The intervention was a total failure. But the problem of preventing similar actions remains a critical one, especially since news agencies are reporting increased provocations by China against Laos. Chinese troops have crossed the Lao border and occupied several regions in the Lou Namtha Province, and China's Foreign Affairs Minister Huang Hua has said that Beijing is ready at any time to resume aggressive wide-scale actions against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

KOMMUNIST WRITES ON PRC'S POLICIES, BETRAYAL OF SOCIALISM

LD212332 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Commenting on China's present-day policies, KOMMUNIST, the publication of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, writes that these policies have become a factor aimed at undermining world peace. We now bring you several more points made by this magazine:

The Chinese leadership has betrayed the ideals of revolution and socialism; it has moved over to the camp of imperialism and reaction and has become their ally in their struggle against world socialism, against the international communist, workers and national liberation movements, and against the progressive forces the world over.

At present China is bent on becoming a powerful military state that will pursue expansionist objectives in its foreign policy. Such a drive may well result in the outbreak of a new world war, which will demand a lot of sacrifice not only from the Chinese people but also from other nations of the world. China's policy will finally bring nothing good to her people. It will only lead to a further boost in the arms race, in the Far East among other parts of the world. Many have realized today that the anti-Soviet policies of the Chinese leadership are no guarantee against China's expansion in the countries of east, Southeast and South Asia. China's actions against neighboring countries are cases in point. Her aggression against Vietnam is the most convincing illustration of all.

One of the most acute political tasks facing the followers of the Marxist-Leninist theory today is to continue with the political and ideological struggle against the Maoist concept of the three worlds as a theoretical justification of China's policy of class betrayal and its alinement with imperialism. Both this concept and the practical policies of the Chinese leadership play into the hands of the imperialists and blunt the vigilance of peoples. But this is not all that matters. If put into effect, China's doctrine calling for the building of a united front within the third and second worlds, with the inclusion of the United States into it, would amount in reality to the formation of a world counterrevolutionary alliance. It would result in the loss of the gains achieved by the developing countries and may lead in the long run to the outbreak of a new world war. The present-day Chinese leadership remains loyal to Maoism, and yet resorts to political and ideological maneuvering as far as that theory is concerned. It pushes the discredited leftist slogans of Mao Zedong into the background while keeping the great power chauvinistic goals of Maoism and its antisocialist trend intact. At the same time, the Beijing leaders place more and more emphasis on the rightist nationalistic trend of the Maoist theory.

PRC ATTACK ON VIETNAM PART OF LONGSTANDING CHINESE STRATEGY

LD211415 Moscow NEDELYA in Russian No 11 Signed to Press 15 Mar 79 pp 8-9 LD

[Nikolay Sergeyev article under rubric "Hands Off Vietnam!": "The Lessons of Beijing's Aggression"]

[Text] The situation in Vietnam where the Chinese aggressors, having announced the withdrawal of their troops, are in actual fact delaying this process in every possible way still remains acute and disturbing. The aggressors are regrouping their forces, concentrating their military formations in regions adjoining the border and, in certain sectors of territory seized from Vietnam, are constructing fortifications and continuing fierce artillery bombardments and armed operations in a number of instances. And here they are threatening to deliver "new strikes" for the purpose of "self-defense" whenever they see fit. In short, Beijing is being faithful to its favorite tactic of playing a two-faced Janus.

And here it is in a hurry over only one thing. Chinese representatives and propaganda are fueling a ballyhoo about the "successful," "victorious" fulfillment of the task set for the interventionists of "teaching a lesson" to Vietnam. But no lying reports of victory or bombastic phrases are sufficient to drown out the simple and clear question: Just who has taught whom a lesson? The aggressor who shamelessly and like a brigand implemented a long-planned act of invasion of the soil of a neighboring socialist state, or the heroic Vietnamese people and their armed forces who did not bend before the treacherous surprise attack, who were able to frustrate Beijing's blitzkrieg plan with their high patriotic spirit and military skill and who have struck increasingly painful blows against the enemy? So it is not only a matter of estimating the extent of the Beijing expansionists' purely military miscalculations. They have indeed been taught a worthy lesson from the military viewpoint, and the impressive figures for Chinese losses of manpower and equipment confirm this. NHAN DAN, organ of the Vietnam Communist Party Central Committee, has rightly pointed out: "The military adventure of the clique of Chinese reactionaries has been ignominiously defeated. This clique has been taught a great lesson and has paid an enormous price for it with far-reaching consequences."

There are probably no figures or yardsticks for determining the profundity of the aggressor's moral and political defeat. The political conclusions to be drawn from the Chinese aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] are important; exceptionally important both for today and for the future. Of course, all countries and various political forces are drawing these conclusions. Through its attack on Vietnam Beijing has voluntarily or, more likely, involuntarily--because, as history testifies, the aggressor and invader tends to underestimate the strength and plurality of factors creating resistance to his unjust cause--taught a whole series of instructive lessons. Let us consider some of these.

FIRST. The Chinese leaders who are fired by great-power, expansionist ambitions have a total disregard for the fate of peace. In perpetrating the aggression against Vietnam, Beijing was also pursuing broader aims: Exacerbating international tension, impeding and reversing the detente process, creating a situation of profound international conflict in Southeast Asia and demonstrating its readiness to act in harness with the most adventurist, militant imperialist forces and to incite them to embark on a "more resolute" confrontation with the socialist community states.

This Beijing line was so overt and revealed itself so obviously in the interconnection between the Chinese proposals for an anti-Soviet alliance of China, the United States, the West European NATO countries and Japan and the direct threats against Vietnam voiced during Deng Xiaoping's visit to Washington and Tokyo [on the one hand] and the immediate actual unleashing of war against the SRV [on the other], that it caused something like shock among a number of Western politicians and propaganda organs. There has been an increase in the frequency of warnings that the West and primarily the United States must not sacrifice the prospects of detente, progress in the actual sphere of limiting the arms race and an improvement in the complex of relations with the Soviet Union and the other socialist states by falling into line with Beijing's policy and displaying solidarity with Beijing's provocative adventures.

And so L.I. Brezhnev's conclusion in his speech at the voters' election meeting in Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug that it is precisely the great-power, hegemonic policy of the Beijing leaders which currently poses the most serious threat to peace throughout the world rang out with great weight at the height of Beijing's adventure and gave many people in the West food for thought. Many objective commentators in the capitalist countries have now publicly acknowledged the validity of the Soviet warnings regarding the increasingly dangerous character of China's policy and the impermissibility of any form of complicity or connivance with that policy.

Beijing's aggressive war in Vietnam has demonstrated once again the delusiveness, shortsightedness and presumptuous naivete of the calculations of certain circles in the United States and other capitalist countries regarding their utilization of China's present policy. Mesmerized by the foolish hope of changing in their favor the correlation of the main world forces by forming a bloc with Beijing, they decided that they were destined to occupy the driver's seat in that alliance. But now these circles are more likely to be recalling Pushkin's well-known image of the gambler who discovers the sinister queen of spades in his hand instead of the promised winning ace.

On the eve and in the course of the aggression Beijing deliberately endeavored to make it clear to the world that it was acting with American approval. It must be said that it had very definite grounds for this in connection with official Washington's more than ambiguous position. World public opinion clearly noted this and properly assessed this position as virtual encouragement of the aggressor. American diplomacy had to try to assure people that the United States had not egged Beijing on and did not approve of its actions in Vietnam. But it was clear to everyone, including Americans, that the cost of supporting Beijing's aggression would be not only in propaganda terms but primarily political and strategic.

The American "establishment" is considering where the "new" relations with Beijing ushered in by the at first seemingly cloudless honeymoon of Chinese-American diplomatic normalization could ultimately lead the United States. If Beijing is acting so unceremoniously and without consideration for U.S. prestige right now, what might it do later?

Many U.S. commentators have begun to speak of the need to establish the precise political "limits" of the American-Chinese rapprochement. Whether this sober approach will prevail is, of course, a separate issue. Those who want to continue to play the "China card" against the Soviet Union and the socialist states are by no means renouncing their plans. They are endeavoring to buttress them not only with promises of military-political advantages resulting from rapprochement with China but also with promises of future fat profits from trade and economic links with it, particularly from long-term weapons supplies. Some figures are evidently transforming the tactic of consolidating "business" contacts with Beijing into a contemporary version of the Munich deal at a time when the latter's troops are sowing death and destruction on Vietnamese soil. That is the first point.

SECOND. Beijing's aggression has shown that it is continuing to seek to implement the Maoist leadership's longstanding scheme--which can be traced back to the feudal imperial and bourgeois nationalist traditions of great Chinese chauvinism--for transforming Southeast Asia into a firm sphere of Chinese influence and a chain of dependent states.

The Maoist leaders have repeatedly, though to no avail, attempted to gain control of Vietnam, which historically has been one of the main targets of these expansionist aspirations. The united Socialist Vietnam is a still mightier obstacle in the way of hegemonic plans. In order to remove this obstacle the Chinese leadership has gone so far as to drop the mask of a defender and friend of the liberated peoples and young developing states by unleashing aggression. By going on the warpath against Vietnam, Beijing, which had hitherto operated chiefly not by direct aggression but by constant political pressure and via its agents in the various countries of the region, has ushered in a new stage of its expansionist policy.

Undoubtedly Beijing was also prompted to do this by the collapse of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime in Kampuchea. This was not only the first pro-Chinese puppet regime to establish dominance over a whole country and to begin to directly serve the aims of Chinese expansion, primarily through military provocations against Vietnam and pressure on it from the south in addition to the Chinese pressure on the SRV from the north. [paragraph continues]

At the same time the Maoist "barracks communism" which took the form of monstrous genocide and the mass extermination of the population was implanted in Kampuchea according to Chinese prescriptions and direct instructions. In 3 years the clique of Beijing puppets exterminated more than 3 million people, clearing Kampuchean soil for settlement by Chinese and making Kampuchea a springboard for Beijing's future expansion in the direction of both Vietnam and other Southeast Asian states. The Kampuchean revolution and the expulsion of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique struck a mighty blow against these criminal plans, but even this did not stop Beijing.

It is characteristic that simultaneously with the aggression against Vietnam the Beijing leaders have been taking steps to revive subversive activity against the new People's Kampuchea. Weapons and men are being secretly transferred to reinforce the remnants of Pol Pot's gangs, which have hidden from the people's retribution. Beijing is intensifying its border provocations and internal subversive activity against the Lao People's Democratic Republic and is marshalling troops on its borders, threatening both Laos and Vietnam from that springboard.

Naturally, there is a growing understanding in the Southeast Asian countries of the direct connection between Beijing's aggression against Vietnam and the danger of an intensification of Beijing's great-power, hegemonic pressure on all the states of that region. The matter of Beijing's direct utilization of the ethnic Chinese emigres--the so-called Huaqiao--in the preparation and implementation of the aggression against Vietnam is a particular warning to the countries of that region. Since the start of the aggression many Huaqiao who used to live in Vietnam have formed part of special interventionist units and have operated as guides, saboteurs, members of punitive detachments and so forth. They are also being settled in sectors of territory seized from Vietnam. In other words, in addition to the function of a "fifth column" the Beijing leaders are also assigning to the Huaqiao the role of "vanguard" in organizing Beijing's direct aggression. The public of the Southeast Asian countries, where more than 20 million Huaqiao live, certainly have food for thought.

THIRD. The Beijing leaders have demonstrated their treacherous, doubledealing tactics in implementing their expansionist, aggressive strategy. The methods of provoking border and territorial conflicts, slander, total divergence of word and deed, the futile camouflage of subversive provocative propaganda, vandalism, violence and atrocities against the peaceful population, economic plunder and pillage, the scorched-earth tactic--all those, as the aggression in Vietnam shows, are a permanent part of the collection of methods and means used by the Beijing chauvinists. Beijing blatantly violates all the elementary norms and principles of international law. It is no accident that the world public is comparing Beijing's deeds on Vietnamese soil to the Hitlerite's crimes. The truth that an unjust deed is invariably done with iniquitous methods is once again being confirmed.

Beijing's tactic of dragging out and freezing conflicts which it has organized itself merits particular attention. It is clearly manifested in the Chinese leaders' attitude to the question of a political settlement. The aggressor wants to "clear" himself in the eyes of the world public opinion and is proposing to Vietnam that they begin negotiations. But at the same time he has long been laying mines on the most important roads which might lead to a mutually acceptable settlement. In particular, for this purpose Beijing is artificially creating the problem of "disputed territories" on the border with Vietnam although, as is well known, historically the territorial demarcation in the relations between the two states was carried out back at the end of the last century and was reaffirmed by the SRV and PRC leaderships in 1957-1958. But today the aggression is not only continuing "about disputed territories" but also in directly moving the border markers, illegally appropriating parcels of land and settling Chinese in them. Are the Beijing leaders so naive that they do not understand that such actions essentially amount to undermining the basis for constructive talks?

FOURTH. Beijing's aggression reveals the interconnection between the Chinese leadership's adventurist actions in the international arena and the profound internal instability and ceaseless factional struggle within the Beijing elite which are an integral element and direct outcome of the vicious practice and theory of Maoism. Not for the first time the Maoists are attempting to resolve internal crises and disagreements through foreign policy adventures and by fanning chauvinism. This happened after the failure of the "Great Leap Forward" at the end of the fifties, which was followed by the imposition on the party and the country of a policy of anti-Sovietism and a break with the socialist countries, by a rupture with the international communist movement and by a military attack on India. This also happened during the "Cultural Revolution," when armed provocations on the Soviet-Chinese border and subversive actions against certain other states were organized. Judging by the remarks of the Chinese press itself, there is no unity of action or views in the party and the country. The program of the "four modernizations" which has been announced looks unrealistic and lacking support internally, and the power struggle and settling of scores continue in the leadership. Under these conditions some people in Beijing regard a final reorientation toward a political and economic alliance with the leading capitalist powers as the only panacea. They attempted to prove to Western imperialist circles the irreversibility of their antisocialist policy line by attacking Socialist Vietnam.

Western commentators are calling Beijing's military adventure "Deng Xiaoping's war" and believe that it is designed to make Deng's position in the Chinese leadership even firmer and to consolidate the policy line pursued by him. If this is so, then it is obvious today that the war against Vietnam can scarcely strengthen the position of any of the Chinese leaders. The fact that foreign policy adventures do not cure the disease but drive it deeper inside is being confirmed once again. According to the assessments of many political commentators, the aggression in Vietnam has contributed to further exacerbating the factional struggle and internal instability within the Chinese leadership.

Of course, the aggression against Socialist Vietnam has not been popular among the population. The Chinese people did not want it. Despite the bans and persecution, voices condemning the aggression have been heard. These even burst out in the wall newspapers controlled by the authorities--the dazibao (although, as is well known, this form of expression of the "masses' opinion" is often utilized by various factions in the Chinese leadership to combat their opponents. But in this case the very fact of criticism of the invasion of Vietnam is indicative).

FIFTH. The peoples are seeing for themselves that only active opposition to aggression can suppress it and force the aggressor to retreat. An international movement under the slogan "Hands Off Vietnam!" has again arisen, as during the years of the American aggression. The heroic Vietnamese people have gained the complete support of the fraternal socialist states. The Vietnamese have highly rated the firm, principles position of the Soviet Union which immediately reaffirmed its absolute loyalty to the commitments of the Soviet-Vietnamese friendship and cooperation treaty. The fraternal communist and workers parties have demonstrated their high international spirit by actively expressing their solidarity with the Vietnamese people and by condemning Beijing's shameless aggression. The progressive movements and organizations of all the world's countries have in various forms mounted a campaign in support of the SRV demanding an end to the aggression and withdrawal of the interventionists' troops. Despite international reaction's attempts to justify him, the aggressor is profoundly isolated. The international emergency conference in support of Vietnam held in Helsinki provided cogent evidence of the profound development of these processes.

The aggression still continues today; although Beijing is proclaiming a withdrawal of its troops, it is simultaneously acting in the language of guns and lies.

And this reminds the world's peoples and all progressive honest, peace-loving people on earth that activeness must not be relaxed or vigilance be allowed to slip even for a minute. The aggression can and must be nipped in the bud; the aggressor must completely withdraw from Vietnamese soil. He must bear full responsibility for his crimes against peace and humanity.

VIETNAMESE SAID TO DEEM SOVIET HELP ADEQUATE

LD221041 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Mar 79 Morning Edition P 5 LD

[IZVESTIYA political observer A. Bovin article: "Defeat"]

[Text] At the very height of the American war in Vietnam when Washington figures--at any rate some of them--had begun to realize that there would be no victory, Senator George Aiken gave the administration some sensible advice: Announce to all the world that the United States has won the war and withdrawn the troops from Vietnam. They did not listen to Aiken--something which was repeatedly regretted.

And now the American senator's advice has come in extremely handy for Beijing. The withdrawal of the expeditionary corps from Vietnam is being accompanied by the blaring voice of Chinese propaganda. Gongs are sounding and drums are being beaten in honor of the "victors," XINHUA reports. Congratulating the army on a "major victory," RENMIN RIBAO haughtily declares that the Chinese units took the Vietnamese "down a peg or two" and have "dispelled the myth" of Vietnam's invincibility. In actual fact, there is nothing else the Beijing authorities can do but celebrate the "victory." After all, what is one more lie in a country where deception of the people and the falsification of public opinion have long been the be-all and end-all of policy?

Beijing will continue for a long time to lie and to twist and turn in order to transform the aggression into a "counterattack" and the defeat into victory and to conceal from people the fact that--I quote the WALL STREET JOURNAL--"China has come out of the war with a tarnished reputation and a bloody nose." But it is impossible to conceal that. You only have to compare the expectations of those who decided on the aggression with the military and political results obtained.

Let us start with the expectations. Without being overly modest, RENMIN RIBAO informs its readers: "All our decisions are seriously considered, are taken on the basis of overall strategic considerations and proceed from the interests of defending the fundamental norms of interstate relations." "Defending the fundamental norms" is another lie; "seriously considered" is, to put it mildly, something of an exaggeration; but the "strategic considerations" are perfectly serious. One of these considerations has its roots in China's imperial past and demands that Indochina and Southeast Asia in general be regarded as a sphere of predominantly Chinese interests and of Chinese political influence. From this viewpoint, Vietnam's independent policy line, the expulsion of the Chinese puppets from Kampuchea and Laos' solidarity with Socialist Vietnam and the new Kampuchea are perceived by Beijing as a challenge to its great-power ambitions. This is an insult to the "Middle Kingdom" and a manifest violation of its "legitimate" interests. Hence, the cynical idea, which runs counter to the elementary norms of interstate relations, of "rebuking" and "punishing" Vietnam.

In embarking on this adventure the Chinese obviously set themselves several tasks. [paragraph continues]

First, Beijing obviously wanted to humiliate the Vietnamese, to break Vietnam's political will and to change its political positions; to intimidate Laos and strengthen Beijing's influence in Vientiane; to support the remnants of the Pol Pot gangs which have not yet laid down their weapons. Second, China was seeking to place our country in a difficult position as an ally of Vietnam and to undermine the Soviet people's fraternal friendship with the Indochinese peoples. "China's present actions," Li Xiannian, vice premier of the PRC State Council, has said, "are aimed at nipping the Soviet Union's strategic schemes in the bud... To strike a blow against Vietnam is to strike a blow against the USSR." Third, the Chinese hoped to demonstrate to all and sundry that China is not a "paper tiger." If we were scared of the Vietnamese, Deng Xiaoping has declared, "others would think that we are weak." Fourth, Beijing believed that the success of its "punitive action" would prompt the United States to adopt a tougher position both vis-a-vis Vietnam and vis-a-vis the Soviet Union and force the West to reward China for the zeal it had displayed.

There were probably other foreign policy calculations too. But in general, if the "overall strategic considerations" are borne in mind, Mao's heirs set themselves the aim of strengthening China's international positions as a great power capable--in the style of the "strongarm [kulachnaya] diplomacy" of the great powers of the past--of making snap decisions and defending its hegemonic claims by armed force. It can be assumed that there was yet another aim--to utilize nationalist, chauvinist hysteria in order to distract Chinese people's attention from the domestic difficulties. That is part of it, and the rest was to consolidate the present leadership in openly aggressive, expansionist positions.

Those were, I repeat, the aims. A lightning strike in several salients at once, the rout of Vietnamese border units and regular army formations and then a rapid pullback of the main troop formations on to Chinese territory were chosen as the means. To come, "punish" and withdraw--that is how the Beijing strategists' criminal scheme might be approximately formulated.

The scheme failed. There was not easy and rapid victory. Despite their obvious superiority in manpower, the Chinese were unable to meet their projections. In the opinion of military experts, the Chinese army has demonstrated its weakness and has proven itself unprepared for modern warfare. Even in the first days, the Vietnamese were able to put the Chinese off their stride with the minimum forces--almost without fielding the regular army. They were able to disrupt the interaction among categories of troops and to impose on them the tactic of small-scale but exhausting skirmishes and clashes. Having advanced in a couple of sectors by 20-40 km after 2 and 1/2 weeks of fighting and having lost a considerable part of their personnel and combat equipment, the Chinese were faced with the alternative of involvement in a protracted war with unforeseen military and political consequences or withdrawing and attempting to turn defeat into "victory." Beijing chose the latter path.

However, the consequences of the failure of the Chinese adventure are not confined to military defeat. As far as the situation on the Indochinese Peninsula is concerned, Beijing's shameless actions have strengthened the Vietnamese people's will to defend their independence and reinforced the desire of the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea to march together, to help one another and to resist China's hegemonic policy.

And what can we say about China's prestige? Not a single world state, not a single really noteworthy public movement has supported the aggressor. The pitiful voices of Maoist groups in certain countries have only emphasized the political isolation of the Beijing authorities. "Third World" capitals, particularly in Southeast Asia, could not help wondering how their relations with China will develop if today, without having taken even half a step along the path of modernization, Beijing is already beginning to conduct itself in neighboring countries as a master in its own house, trying to impose an "order" there to its own prescription.

Political leaders in the United States, West Europe and Japan have also had to take thought. The euphoric gleam in their eyes which only recently accompanied any mention of the new Chinese "friend" is beginning to dim. The Chinese have let down their Western "well-wishers." They have not respected the sentimental twaddle about China's "love of peace."

It is difficult to teach any sense to those who are fond of thumbing the "Chinese card." But serious people in politics and business must analyze things seriously. Does China's policy promote the consolidation of international security? Is it prepared to heed world public opinion, which has long since condemned the use of force in resolving disputes between states? Can we be confident that the Chinese will not provoke a new confrontation which it will no longer be able to control? These and similar questions are being posed with increasing frequency in the West. One would like those who are preparing to supply China with modern weapons and to help it build up its military and technical potential to take the trouble to answer these questions. This will help save capital, and perhaps human life, too.

It is not easy to tell how Chinese society has reacted to the war in Vietnam. There is not enough information. It is known that the authorities have categorically forbidden any debate on this question. But it is also known that, in defiance of the ban, wall posters have appeared in Beijing and other cities condemning the Beijing ruling clique's aggressive policy. And what one Chinese dares to write (or 10, or 20--it does not matter) may be what thousands are saying and millions are thinking. So that the official hysterics in connection with the "enemy outside" has hardly helped curb the "enemy within." On the contrary, the number of perplexing questions has increased and doubts and anxiety have grown. There are reports that, contrary to Deng Xiaoping's hopes, new complications have also arisen within the Beijing leadership. There they know the truth. There defeat cannot be passed off as victory. And there, too, there is someone to answer for the shame brought on China by the inglorious adventure in Vietnam.

Now for the Soviet Union's position. It has been and remains clear and precise. "The Vietnamese Army and people," Le Duan, general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee, has stated, "firmly believe in their combat friend, loyal comrade and combat brother--the glorious CPSU, the government and the great Soviet people. The assistance of the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries, together with the mighty support of the world's peoples, is a tremendous source of inspiration for the Vietnamese Army and people in repelling the Chinese aggression." Acting in accordance with the Soviet-Vietnamese treaty, our country gave fighting Vietnam all the help which was necessary in the Vietnamese comrades' opinion. The Soviet Union's vigorous diplomatic activity helped to expose Beijing's true intentions and promoted the practically universal condemnation of the Beijing aggressors. Moscow, like Hanoi, understood that the situation which had arisen was fraught with dangers on a global scale. Of course, the concrete choice of means to influence the situation was dictated by concrete circumstances. Soberness and restraint, determination and political wisdom were counterposed to the irresponsibility and recklessness of Beijing's playing with fire. And they won.

Let us sum up. The Vietnamese-Chinese border is still uneasy. The Chinese are attempting to change the line of the border and establish themselves on the territories of a number of communities; that is, in essence they are continuing their aggressive line. The sound of undisguised threats alternates with that of the triumphal marches in Beijing. But whatever they say or play in Beijing, the truth is simple: The Chinese aggressors have sustained defeat--military and political defeat. The Chinese have indeed "taught a lesson." But not to Vietnam--to themselves.

PRC UNDERGROUND GROUP REPORTEDLY DENOUNCES DENG XIAOPING

OW211235 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1100 GMT 20 Mar 79 OW

[Report on statement of the "Young Workers Association for Achieving Peace and Prosperity" marking the Paris Commune's founding anniversary]

[Excerpts] We have reported that an underground organization in China--the "Young Workers Association for Achieving Peace and Prosperity"--distributed a statement in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and other Chinese cities last week marking the Paris Commune's founding anniversary. On 19 March a Japanese technician who did not identify himself gave a copy of that statement to a foreign correspondent in Guangzhou. The statement reads:

The Paris Commune's founding anniversary, a festival of the world's proletariat, falls on 18 March. A bourgeois regime was overthrown for the first time in history 108 years ago. The Paris Commune became the model for future proletarian revolutions. Its ideals have inspired workers' struggles in capitalist countries up until the present.

The people's revolution in 1949 opened up the path for building socialism in China. Socialist transformations were introduced during the first few years after liberation. But in the 1960's, the party and state power was usurped by the spies of renegades and capitalists inside the party which resulted in widespread encroachment upon the working people's personal interests and the fruits of socialism.

Since the gang of four antiparty clique's downfall, socialism has not been practised in China. Capitalism has begun to emerge instead. Under the big signboard of "modernization," the unrepentant capitalist roader Deng Xiaoping, who has again come to power, has consistently betrayed socialism. He invites foreign monopoly organizations to again play the tyrant in China and guarantees the imperialists privileges in China as the rulers of the Qing Dynasty and the Kuomintang did in the past.

Begging servilely for loans and favors from the imperialists and from monopoly organizations, he has forgotten that he who contracts a loan must pay interest. He protects the bourgeoisie, returns confiscated properties and capital to capitalists, helps bourgeois elements resume leading posts and recruits them into the communist party. Talking glibly about protecting and loving the people, in China's enterprises he practises the bourgeois system of imposing fines which the great Lenin called "legalized plunder of workers."

While giving great publicity to improving the people's livelihood, he orders that grain rations be cut down. Going against the people's will, he started the war of aggression against Vietnam--a senseless war which claimed the lives of tens of thousands of Chinese and Vietnamese soldiers, old people, women and children.

Deng Xiaoping's crimes are countless. He must pay the blood debts he has owed those who died in vain. Chairman Hua approves of Deng Xiaoping's crimes instead of stopping or punishing this big insane official. The two of them are actually partners. The Hua-Deng criminal clique has betrayed the socialist cause and has turned the dictatorship of the proletariat in China into the dictatorship of foreign officials and bureaucrats.

The people are waiting for an opportunity and are making positive preparations. Under the leadership of the heroic working class, they will wage a struggle to punish the diabolical Beijing officials.

PRC DEFEAT IN VIETNAM RESTARTS INTERNAL POWER STRUGGLE

LD220952 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Asia 1430 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Sergey Malin commentary]

[Text] The resounding defeat of Beijing's aggressive venture in Vietnam has brought about an intensification of the strife [as heard] for power in the Chinese leadership. That is the inference drawn by our news analyst Sergey Malin upon reviewing the Chinese press, where thinly veiled polemics are raging between the factions of the chairman of the Chinese party, Hua Guofeng, and his chief political rival, Senior Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping.

Sergey Malin says the Hua faction was the first to hit. The central newspaper GUANGMING DAILY lashed out at the number 11 directive of the party's Central Committee, endorsed reportedly at Deng Xiaoping's initiative. That directive banned meetings, rallies and wallposters concerning the aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The GUANGMING DAILY argued: Frankly voiced opinions should not be rated as a crime. There can be no true freedom of expression if one can talk of some things and cannot broach others. Moreover, the central Chinese newspaper warned that those who don't let the masses speak out will inevitably be defeated. Statements branded today as criminal may tomorrow be found correct.

Well, for the Chinese, who are used to reading between the lines, the implications of that statement are quite revealing. Nor is it a secret for the readers of the GUANGMING DAILY that the newspaper would hardly be so daring had it not the backing of an influential source, and there is every ground to believe that the numerous opponents of Deng Xiaoping rallied around Hua Guofeng deem this particular moment auspicious for squaring accounts with the vice premier.

And indeed, the collapse of the anti-Vietnamese aggression whose initiator and engineer Deng was, may cost a lot to the politician who has already suffered two falls from the Beijing political Olympus. However, the old stager that the 74-year-old Deng is, is unlikely to give in to his political opponents and no sooner had China watchers digested the anti-Deng article in the GUANGMING DAILY than yet another central Chinese newspaper, PEOPLE'S DAILY, reproved it--and the punch hit Hua where it hurt most. In fact, the PEOPLE'S DAILY questioned the generally accepted version of Hua's succession to party and state leadership at the will of the late Mao Zedong. That is the cornerstone of Hua's authority as in its time Chinese propaganda publicized him as an official successor of Mao. If you take over I am calm. These words, reportedly addressed by Mao Zedong to Hua Guofeng, were repeated time and again by the Chinese press and now the PEOPLE'S DAILY levelled criticism of the editors of the sixth volume of Mao Zedong's collected works for their unscrupulous reshuffling and distorting of the documents of the history of the Chinese party.

Those who follow the developments in China undoubtedly remember that the editorial staff of the sixth volume was headed by none other than Hua Guofeng, while it should be observed that he liberally interpreted the theses of the late Mao as he found best for himself, and that naturally is something that Deng Xiaoping is not ready to put up with. Who is going to win in the verbal duels is still hard to say. It is obvious, however, that the resounding defeat of Chinese aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam touched off another round of power play in Beijing's high quarters.

REPORTS OF INCREASE IN JAPAN'S MILITARY SPENDING SCORED

LD212047 Moscow TASS in English 2020 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 21, TASS--The National Defence Board of Japan has completed the elaboration of a new five-year program of arms build-up (1980-1984). It envisages increase in military spending during this period, beginning from 1980, to 13 trillion yens. Under the program it is intended to carry out a radical reconstruction of the land divisions, to replace obsolete naval ships, allocate 100 billion yen for streamlining the early detection system of the anti-aircraft force, and equip the Japanese army with new anti-aircraft missiles to replace the old Nike and Hawk types. An armoured division is to be formed, the mobility and striking power of land troops will grow, the number of anti-tank weaponry in the structure of a division will increase, including missile-carrying helicopters. During these five years Japan's navy will increase by 4-5 new warships a year. The navy's four squadrons will include two missile warships each, equipped with Tartar missiles.

Commenting on these figures, the paper ASAHI notes that the implementation of these plans will lead to a qualitative improvement and development of the strike capacity of Japan's armed forces.

The new program of the National Defence Board is a concrete contribution by the Japanese military to the "development of Japano-American military cooperation". The basic principles of Japano-American cooperation in the defence field", adopted late last year, defined Japan's duties under the Pentagon's strategic plans aimed at stepping up imperialist domination in Asia and the Far East. The new program of the National Defence Board indicates that the Japanese generals have vigorously joined in the implementation of the Pentagon's assignments.

However, the country's peace-loving forces stand in the way of fulfilling this, so meticulously elaborated armaments program. They by no means want a return to the dark times of militarism or a repetition of the horrors of the last war, and are fully resolved to frustrate the dangerous designs of the military and to uphold peace and security in Asia and the Far East.

BRIEFS

MONGOLIAN ARMY ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION--An exhibition devoted to the 58th anniversary of the Mongolian People's Army opened today in the Central Museum of Armed Forces of t he USSR in Moscow. The exhibits show the beginning and the development of the fraternal army and the firm and unbreakable friendship of Soviet and Mongolian soldiers. One part of the exhibition depicts various aspects of everyday life of the Mongolian national army. Major General Sodnohdarjaa, military attache of the MPR Embassy in the Soviet Union, was present at the opening of the exhibition. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 16 Mar 79 LD]

COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES REPORTED IN AFGHANISTAN

UK, U.S., PRC, Iran, Pakistan Implicated

LD211109 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Mar 79 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[U. Verbin article under "On Topical Themes" rubric: "Defending the Gains of the Revolution"]

[Text] Mass demonstrations by the people are continuing in Kabul and other Afghan cities in support of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Government's appeal to the country's population and of the measures it is taking to thwart the intrigues of the internal reaction and resist foreign interference in Afghanistan's affairs. The Afghan people are prepared to come to the defense of the gains of last year's revolution and to uphold their right to an autonomous and independent development and to build a new, progressive society in their country.

The April revolution put an end to feudal relations and vestiges. It gave land to the peasants and agricultural laborers and opened up scope for the democratic restructuring of the country's entire social and socioeconomic life in the interests of the broad people's masses.

The forces of counterrevolution, deprived of their former privileges, the feudal nobility and the reactionary clergy, incited from abroad and receiving direct military aid from states neighboring Afghanistan, would not only like to complicate the process of revolutionary transformations. No, they are trying to restore the power of the landowners and feudalists and resurrect the system which doomed the people to the denial of their rights and to poverty and ignorance.

In the past few days foreign agents and mercenaries sent to Afghanistan's territory, together with bands of counterrevolutionaries operating in the regions of the country bordering on Pakistan and Iran, have raised an antigovernment rebellion in one of Afghanistan's major cities--Herat. The insurgents have seized barracks, the arsenal and food stores. Using the influence of the reactionary clergy, they have succeeded in involving some of the local population in the adventure.

Even now we may conclude that Afghan reaction and its imperialist and Beijing patrons are laying emphasis on playing up to religious feelings and beliefs and on counterposing "traditions and customs" to progressive transformations on the path opened up by the April revolution. Yet the government of people's Afghanistan has proclaimed freedom of conscience and religion as one of the principles of its policy.

It must be noted that Afghanistan's neighbors are behaving in a far from good-neighborly fashion. The utterances of Afghan feudalists seeking at any price to force the people's revolution to retreat are meeting with support from these neighboring states, which are flouting the principles of noninterference in each other's internal affairs and allowing their territory to be used for such interference. Bands of counterrevolutionaries and armed hirelings are being dispatched to Afghanistan from Pakistan and also from Iran. Afghan reactionaries have found refuge in Pakistan and are forming their own detachments there in camps created for this purpose. They are being trained and supplied with modern weapons by Chinese instructors. The U.S. and British special services are taking an active part in training the insurgents and bands of terrorists and in coordinating their actions.

The intrigues of Democratic Afghanistan's enemies and their attempts to inflame national religious hatred could have serious consequences for the situation throughout this region. As the Pakistani newspaper TA'MEER noted, "The lying propaganda supplied to Pakistani newspapers by the Afghan reactionaries settled in Lahore will have an adverse effect on relations between the two sides." Anyone counting on complicating the internal problems which the Afghan revolution is working to resolve would do well to think about these consequences.

The Soviet people, who are linked with Afghanistan by many decades of close and equal mutual relations, welcomed with warm sympathy the victory of the April revolution in the country. They are giving effective aid to the Afghan people in building a new life. The Soviet Union wishes Democratic Afghanistan--its direct neighbor and friend--prosperity and the successful solution of all the difficulties it is experiencing at this present, crucial moment.

Muslim Brotherhood Role

LD211730 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Yuriy Fedorov commentary]

[Text] In the last few days we have been witnessing the sanctioning of conspiracies by imperialist forces and international reaction against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The reason is that these forces have become extremely uneasy and anxious about the successes achieved by the democratic regime in Afghanistan and are extremely disturbed by the policy that this country pursues internally and in the international sphere.

In the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan deep social and economic changes are being implemented for the benefit of the toilers. Class inequality is being destroyed and land reform implemented. The government views with deep respect the freedom of concience and religion of the people of Afghanistan, and in this case it has occupied honest attitudes which have been greatly valued by the patriotic clergy. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in the sphere of foreign policy pursues a peace-loving policy, nonalinement, support of the liberation struggle of nations, and progress and development of mutual and friendly relations with all countries, especially with its neighbors.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, while pursuing this policy, rose in support of the anti-imperialist battle of the Iranian people and declared that foreign interference in the internal affairs of Iran for the purpose of creating obstacles for the Iranian people's resolution of their own destiny is unbearable. For this reason, the motive behind the malice and hatred of the imperialists and international reaction toward the masses' regime of Afghanistan is obvious, and it is obvious why in the struggle against the Republic of Afghanistan imperialist Western governments and also Maoist China and other reactionary forces have united in their conspiracies, and in the meantime they are trying to take advantage of Pakistan and Iranian territory in their plots.

In the declaration of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan it is stated that nearly 10 weeks ago 7,000 soldiers were sent from Iran to Afghanistan on the pretext of repatriating Afghani nationals. These soldiers settled in and around Herat and created antigovernment disturbances. It should be obvious to everybody in Iran by now that this act was equally harmful to the interests of the people of Afghanistan and Iran and was accomplished for the purpose of injuring the democratic regime of Afghanistan which showed that it is a loyal friend of the people of Iran who were struggling for the overthrow of the shah's regime--a pro-imperialist regime.

Recent remarks by Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari, which the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan protested, were beneficial to the enemies of the democratic Afghan regime. Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari provided untrue information to his listeners by repeating false reports of imperialist circles, claiming that Muslims in Afghanistan are apparently persecuted. Meanwhile, he also repeated inculcated and absurd fabrications of the famous destructive organization which calls itself the Muslim Brotherhood which, as you know, was created by British intelligence to combat progressive movements in eastern countries. All neutral observers who visit Afghanistan deny such falsehoods.

According to what is stated in the Declaration of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan the aim of these false and unfounded accusations is to incite the Shi'ite toilers of Afghanistan to act against the government of the masses. Of course, we do not want in any way to relate the remarks made by Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari to the Provisional Revolutionary and Islamic Government of Iran. As you know, Deputy Prime Minister Amir Entezam declared that Iran does not interfere in the internal affairs of any country and the government did not issue any official statement on the case of Afghanistan whatsoever, but the obvious point is that Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari holds a high rank in the religious hierarchy of Iran, and therefore the Afghan Government could not ignore his remarks.

Criticism of 'False Muslims'

LD212225 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1420 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpts] Kabul, 21 March, (TASS)--Nur Mohammad Taraki, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Afghan People's Democratic Party, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, has spoken on Afghan radio and television in an address to the people on the occasion of the New Year according to the Afghan calendar.

Speaking of the plots of the enemies of Democratic Afghanistan, N.M. Taraki said: The Akhwanis (TASS note: a reactionary organization of so-called "Muslim Brethren") are the most evil enemies of the working Muslims of Afghanistan. These false foreign Muslims, incited by the imperialist forces, are trying to prevent a further development of the people's revolution in our country. They do not have the courage to conduct talks with us openly. They go to London and Paris and, together with their bosses, use their radio stations to pour lies and slander on the Afghan people. The people of Afghanistan have declared "holy war" on such sheikhs, pseudo-religious figures and foreign-made Akhwanis. All our working people express their contempt for them. The times have gone when brother killed his own brother. Their bosses, including their foreign bosses, cannot turn back the wheels of history, and cannot use these foreign false Muslims to stifle our freedom and stop our social development.

N.M. Taraki pointed out that, taking advantage of the fact that the people in their mass were illiterate, the enemies of Democratic Afghanistan were trying to influence the darkest and most backward strata of the populace. So, he said, the party and the people's government have also declared a "holy war" on illiteracy as one of the enemy's main props. In this case, good results have been achieved: in thousands of courses, hundreds of thousands of people are now learning to read and write, and on a voluntary basis at that.

Soviet Muslum Leader's Address

LD211804 Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 21, TASS--Follows the address to the radio by representative of Moslems of the Soviet Union, Vice-Chairman of the Religious Board of Moslems of Central Asia and Kazakhstan Shaykh Shakhirov Yusupkhan:

"Exteemed Moslems of Afghanistan, brothers and sisters in faith. We, your brothers and sisters, Moslem believers in the Soviet Union received with tremendous joy last year the news about the April revolution on the ancient and freedom-loving soul of Afghanistan and since then we have all attentively and with enormous sympathy followed the blessed changes in your land and prayed to the Allah for the well being of our Afghan brothers and sisters.

What you had a little over a year [ago] in your land, the way a whole generation of your people lived, was profoundly in conflict with the basic principles of the Koran, as Islam is a religion striving for the happiness of all and the whole society, for the establishment of truth, knowledge, freedom, justice and well-being.

But those who ruled your lives before the blessed April, maliciously distorted the basic principles of the sacred Koran, replacing the truth with lies, knowledge with ignorance and freedom with slavery, and doomed the people to hunger, poverty and illiteracy. They set Afghan brothers and sisters against each other, sowed among them religious hatred and distrust. And now, thanks to your finest sons, who assumed the great responsibility for your destinies, for you [word indistinct] future, thanks to the efforts of all honest Afghanians [as received], the dawn of a new life came to your land. The working people received what they had dreamed of for centuries--land, freedom, liberation from bondage. They have received all the political rights, freedom of creed, peace and well-being.

Remember how you lived before the revolution. You used to work from dusk to dawn on the land, which belonged to the feudals, while you yourselves dragged on a miserable existence. You received land on the very first days of the new power. It has done what is preached by the sacred Islam: Land belongs to those who work on it. For centuries, poverty and diseases mowed down your grandfathers and fathers, your sons and daughters. On the very first days of the new life, the government granted the people free medical attendance, gave aid to the poorest families in loans, equipment and grain, by granting housing. The people were deprived of the light of knowledge and education for centuries. The new government has from the very first days placed at full disposal of the people schools, institutions of higher learning and all the cultural establishments. These blessed changes are a source of gratification for your real friends and of hatred for your enemies. In the first place those who owned land, who plundered popular wealth, who lost all of their privileges and would like to regain them.

Using the teaching of Islam as a cover and distorting its essence, they are trying to conceal their real face--the face of enemies of the Afghan people. They would further like to keep you in bondage, to deprive you of human dignity, to oppress you, your families and your children. Taking advantage of your illiteracy, [word indistinct] on the backward views of fanatics and distorting the real teaching of Islamic customs and traditions, they are trying to deceive you and make you (?participate) in the implementation of their black designs. In their unholy cause they have the aid of those outside the borders of your land, who do not care about your destinies. It is them who sow the seeds of strife and discord among Moslems. They do not care about the sacred writing of the Koran: Truly, all the believers are brethren.

Esteemed Moslems of Afghanistan, the Koran says: Oh, believers, if a man comes with some news to you, the plausibility of the truth is to be checked, failing which you may get into trouble and shed innocent blood. Don't yield (?to provocations) and support your government in its truly noble undertakings. It defends your interests, your faith, and is doing everything in order to establish firmly the brotherhood of all Moslems of the country. Do not allow any return to the past bringing back again lack of rights, poverty and ignorance. We, Moslems of the Soviet Union, have for long decades had close and fraternal mutual relations with the Afghan people. Like in the past years, we are today again together with you in your sacred struggle for a new life, for a new life, [as received] for the happiness and freedom of Afghanistan. We fully support your striving to be masters of your home, so that the (?fruits of) your work should serve the well-being of the Afghan people.

Esteemed neighbours, esteemed brothers in religion, praying for your well-being we wish you good health and fresh successes. We profoundly believe that common sense will triumph over madness and peace will prevail in your land. May the Allah preserve you! Vassalyamu aleikum.

Afghan Foreign Minister Remarks

LD212037 Moscow TASS in English 2010 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 21, TASS--Afghanistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hafizollah Amin, speaking in Kabul, stated that successful and rapid making of truly people's revolution in Afghanistan caused displeasure of its enemies who harbour plots against the people's revolution, the people's government and interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs. The problem should not be seen only as manifestation of religious fanaticism in Herat, he said. The anti-popular forces started plotting against the democratic regime in Afghanistan. At the same time, our friends all over the world receive with satisfaction the Afghan revolution and come out in its support and defense. The local press stresses that mercenaries and counterrevolutionary gangs that caused disturbances in Herat and clashes with the government's troops were routed and some of them fled into the highlands. Some groups try to get back to the territory of Iran.

Pro-Chinese elements tried to cause a disturbance in the district center of Farkhar in Tokhar Province. They were suppressed with the forces of the local police with the participation of the population. In Kunar Province a gang of terrorists that came from Pakistan opened an exchange of fire with the governmental troops. It was driven out of Afghanistan's territory. The intrigues of reaction and counterrevolution are condemned by the Afghan working people. Mass demonstrations in support of the republic, in support of the aims and program of the April revolution were held yesterday in Kabul and in a number of other towns. Hundreds of thousands of Afghans took part in these demonstrations.

TARAKI SPEAKS ON AFGHAN AGRARIAN POLICY, IRAN, PAKISTAN

LD212204 Moscow TASS in English 2132 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 21, TASS--The forming of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, a state of the working people, is without precedent in the history of our country, said General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Nur Mohammad Taraki.

He spoke on Tuesday evening over Afghan radio and television, making the address to the working people of Afghanistan in connection with the New Year under the Afghan calendar.

In the past year the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has been recognized by the whole world, the Afghan leader said. Afghanistan has been implementing consistently the policy of non-alignment and active neutrality. The holding of the agrarian reform was an important achievement of the past year. The people's state took lands of feudals without compensation and is distributing them free of charge. Within the past ten weeks alone, about 19 thousand of households were given plots of land free of charge, the prime minister said. He expressed the confidence that the distribution of lands will be completed in three or four months and the feudal system and injustice and class oppression that existed over many centuries will be ended.

The granting of equal rights to all nationalities of Afghanistan has been another unprecedented step of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the people's government. All the nationalities, the prime minister said, can now study in their native language, read newspapers and listen to the radio broadcasts in their native language.

Nur Mohammad Taraki also said that illiteracy is another obstacle to Afghanistan's social and economic development. Hundreds of thousands of illiterate people at thousands of courses now learn how to read and write. In the past year Afghanistan's armed forces have become completely forces of the people. They are proud that for the first time in the history of Afghanistan they are upholding material and spiritual interests of the working people.

We do not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, said the prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. We conduct the policy of non-alignment and peace. But some countries try to interfere in our internal affairs and to create difficulties for us. Nur Mohammad Taraki said that such actions, specifically, were staged from the territories of Iran and Pakistan. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan thoroughly assessed in its statement an impermissible and unsavoury action staged from the territory of Iran.

With regard to Pakistan, the prime minister said, Afghanistan chose the road of friendship and cordiality. But there, too, attempts are made to interfere in our internal affairs with the instigation of imperialism and pressure from some foreign states, reaction and local subversive elements. Despite the fact that such interference is confirmed by many documents, we still express the hope that the Government of Pakistan will be conducting with regard to Afghanistan the policy of friendship and will create the basis for solving problems of ensuring the national rights of Baluchis and Pathans in the spirit of peace and friendship between the two countries.

BOOK ON AFGHAN REVOLUTION PUBLISHED IN TADZHIKISTAN

LD220848 Moscow TASS in English 1406 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Dushanbe, March 21, TASS--The book "Afghanistan on the Road of Democracy and Progress", published in the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Tadzhikistan, notes the profound people's character of the April revolution. The author of the book, lawyer and historian Soli Radjabov, analysed the developments in Afghanistan in the past decades to make a conclusion that the April revolution was a logical result of the broad popular movement for social changes. The country's new political leadership, the book emphasises, finds support among the people and expresses its will.

Dwelling on the history of Soviet-Afghan relations, the author indicates that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries 60 years ago the Soviet Union has consistently developed its relations with Afghanistan on the principles of equal partnership and non-interference in the domestic affairs of each other.

INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER NOTES SUCCESS OF KOSYGIN VISIT

LD201910 Moscow TASS in English 1832 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Delhi, March 20, TASS--Prime Minister Morarji Desai, touching upon the results of the visit paid to India by Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Aleksey Kosygin, has told in an interview to Soviet journalists: That was a very fruitful visit. The relations between our countries are friendly, and I believe that the satisfaction with the visit is mutual.

In actual fact, the prime minister said, our relations have been remaining good over the last 25 odd years and they are devoid of any misunderstandings.

The Prime Minister Morarji Desai said he had no doubts that in the future as well there can be no place for any misunderstanding between us. Some divergencies in opinion on some problems can arise--this is of no importance and invariably happens to reasonable people. But such divergencies can always be ironed out.

We have also drawn the conclusion that no events taking place in other parts of the world can be an obstacle to our friendship, and this is yet another result achieved during the visit, Morarji Desai said. The visit has been very much useful for the establishment of full mutual understanding between us. The visit has left no place to any misunderstandings whatsoever and to any attempts of anybody to create such misunderstandings.

The head of the Indian Government has reaffirmed that both sides expressed their negative attitude to China's invasion of Vietnam and declared that the Chinese should withdraw from Vietnam. He spoke highly of economic cooperation between India and the Soviet Union and emphasized that the Soviet Union was rendering India extensive assistance in the development of metallurgy, engineering and other industries.

USSR, PAKISTAN SIGN PROTOCOL ON GOODS EXCHANGE

LD212158 Moscow World Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] In Islamabad a joint protocol was signed today by the Soviet Union and Pakistan. The protocol is calling for a significant increase of trade between the two countries this year. Pakistan's sales to the Soviet Union would include cotton, textiles and leather garments, and other goods: In return, Pakistan will receive fertilizers, tractors, steel ingots, kerosene and asbestos fibers. The protocol also called for imports of Soviet equipment for Pakistan's oil and gas development corporation.

MORE ON THAI PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK'S VISIT

Talks With Kosygin, Gromyko

LD211818 Moscow TASS in English 1805 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 21, TASS--Talks by the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Aleksey Kosygin and the minister of foreign affairs of the USSR Andrey Gromyko with the prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Kriangsak Chamanan began in the Kremlin today.

Taking part in the talks from the Thai side are Deputy Prime Minister Sunthon Hongladarom and the minister of foreign affairs Uppadit Pachariyangkun.

A constructive exchange of views on questions of Soviet-Thai relations took place during the talks that passed in an atmosphere of frankness and mutual understanding. Noted with satisfaction was the intention of the Soviet Union and Thailand to continue to advance along the road of further strengthening cooperation between the two countries, of making fuller use of existing possibilities to expand it on a long-term basis.

When views on international questions were exchanged, the main attention was given to topical problems of our time, including the strengthening of peace and international security, liquidation of seats of tension and prevention of the danger of war, to ensuring peace, stability and security in Southeast Asia. The sides expressed their conviction that it is necessary to spread the process of detente to all areas of the world and to impart an irreversible nature to that process.

Kosygin, Kriangsak Dinner Speeches

LD212020 Moscow TASS in English 2000 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

["Speeches by Soviet and Thai Premiers"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 21, TASS--"The coincidence or proximity of the positions of the Soviet Union and Thailand on a number of important foreign policy problems," was noted by the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers in a speech during a dinner given today in the Kremlin by the Soviet Government in honour of the prime minister of Thailand General Kriangsak Chamanan, who is in the USSR for an official visit. This, he said, concerns first of all the consolidation of detente, curbing the arms race, banning nuclear weapons tests, the non-use of force in international relations, strengthening international security.

Aleksey Kosygin said that the Soviet Union appreciated the positive changes in Thailand's relations with other countries of Southeast Asia and statements by the Thai Government of its intentions to promote peace, the development of cooperation and goodneighbourly relations with the countries of that region.

"We see opportunities", Aleksey Kosygin stressed, "for expanding cooperation with Thailand, as with other Asian countries, in uniting our efforts in the interests of strengthening peace based on the principles of sovereign equality and the inviolability of borders, of territorial integrity and political independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. We are always prepared for a collective search for constructive measures facilitating advance to this goal."

The Soviet premier noted that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam comes out actively for developing peaceful friendly ties and goodneighbourly cooperation between the countries of Southeast Asia, and it has taken many constructive steps in recent years which promote, in particular, the organisation of Vietnamese-Thailand relations.

The aggression against Vietnam, Aleksey Kosygin said, evoked deep pain in all the other countries of the region and throughout the world, because this was a blow at the conscience of all peace-loving mankind, at its belief in the sacred principles of equality and sovereignty, respect of the right of the peoples to peace and creation in the name of a better future. Today we pay tribute to the Vietnamese people and its heroic armed forces which barred the way to great-power expansion and strengthened the confidence of other peoples in the inevitable triumph of the cause of peace, justice and progress. We pay tribute to the solidarity of the peoples, their unity in struggle for the complete success of this great cause.

Aleksey Kosygin said the Soviet Union regards with understanding the idea of creating a peace zone in Southeast Asia, an idea put forth by the countries of that region.

"We welcome statements by the leaders of states--members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations," said the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, "to the effect that they strive to develop economic and cultural cooperation and that the association is not military in character. We wish the countries of that region success in their efforts to resume the activities of the committee for developing the Mekong River, consisting of Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea."

In his reply speech General Kriangsak Chamanan said the Government of Thailand is seriously concerned over the situation that has developed in Indochina as a result of military actions taking place between neighbouring countries, whose territories are close or adjacent to the border of Thailand.

He stressed that the government of Thailand does not want an expansion of the conflict: This would create a serious threat to the whole region. The Government of Thailand has repeatedly stated its wish for all disputes, wherever they arise, to be settled by peaceful means. On our part, the prime minister of Thailand, said, we shall do everything possible to create conditions conducive to peace and stability in Southeast Asia. In this we shall seek to cooperate with other countries and international organisations with the aim of preventing the escalation or expansion of such conflicts.

Kriangsak Chamanan stated his deep conviction that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Kingdom of Thailand are united by the common desire for peace and the wish to strengthen friendship and cooperation between the two countries on the basis of equality and reciprocal benefit.

The dinner passed in a friendly atmosphere.

THAI EFFORTS FOR 'BROAD INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION' LAUDED

LD220827 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Mar 79 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Correspondent V. Skosyrev report: "Thailand: Search for New Paths"]

[Excerpt] Bangkok--In the international arena K. Chamanan's government has proclaimed a course toward the development of relations with all states irrespective of their social systems. Positive changes have been outlined in Thailand's relations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Laos.

During my trip to northern Thailand I visited the bank of the Mekong River, which serves as the natural border with Laos. The setting sun imparted a crimson glow to the faces of the fishermen rhythmically hauling from the water nets reminiscent in outline of enormous hand nets [sachki]. The atmosphere of peaceful work attested graphically to the fact that calm reigns on the Thai-Lao border thanks to the efforts of the two states.

Naturally the Thai people cannot fail to be concerned about the events in neighboring Kampuchea. Pol Pot's bloody regime frequently sent armed detachments into Thailand which made attacks on government institutions in the border regions and committed atrocities in the villages. The victory of the revolutionary-patriotic forces of Kampuchea has radically altered the situation. It has created the opportunity to establish goodneighborly relations between Kampuchea and Thailand. This prospect in no way suits Beijing. It is seeking to bring pressure to bear on Thailand and to prevent the development of its contacts with the socialist countries. The aggression unleased against Vietnam by the Chinese militarists is casting an ominous shadow over all Southeast Asia. People there realize that the Beijing expansionists' designs threaten the freedom and independence not only of Vietnam but of other countries of the region. It is not without reason that the Chinese rulers, acting through their minions, have for many years been stoking the hotbeds of "minor wars" on the territory of Thailand, Malaysia and Burma. Despite the pressure from external forces Bangkok is steering a course toward the development of broad international cooperation.

In a talk with your correspondent Foreign Minister Uppadit Pachariyangkun pointed out that relations between Thailand and the Soviet Union are developing successfully and are of a friendly nature. The minister expressed the conviction that the forthcoming visit to Moscow by Thai Prime Minister K. Chamanan will promote the consolidation of Thai-Soviet relations in various fields.

THAIS' INCREASED INTEREST IN USSR NOTED

LD211507 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 19 March publishes on page 4, under the headline "USSR-Thailand: Development of Business Contacts," a 700-word Bangkok March dispatch from correspondent V. Kalinin. Kalinin notes the "Thais' increased interest in the Soviet Union," ascribing this to "the development of links between our countries." He continues: "For many years this was hampered by Thailand's one-sided orientation toward the United States. However, in October 1973 the pro-American military dictatorship was overthrown. The development of Soviet-Thai relations began to gain momentum." Kalinin goes on to outline aspects of Soviet-Thai trade, declaring that "turnover was increased approximately fivefold since the Soviet-Thai trade agreement was signed on 25 December 1970." He concludes: "Last year was noteworthy; about 900 meetings with representatives of the Thai business world were held in the Soviet trade mission alone. Before, few people dared to appear in a Soviet institution. The policy of the present government of Kriangsak Chamanan which, without abandoning its former links, is establishing and developing contacts with the socialist states, has helped to overcome the 'barrier of fear!'"

MORE ON CHINA'S AGGRESSION AGAINST SRV

SRV Defense Ministry Communique

LD220821 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 79 p 5 LD

["Rebuff for Chinese Aggression"--TASS headline]

[Text] Hanoi, March 19, TASS--A communique of the Ministry of National Defence of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was circulated here. It says in part:

The reactionary grouping of Beijing's ruling circles brazenly unleashed an aggressive war against our country on February 17th. Having concentrated a large group of troops, numbering 600,000 men with hundreds of tanks, armoured personnel carriers and thousands of heavy guns, the aggressors started a massive intrusion into Vietnam along the entire line of the border from Quang Ninh to Lai Tiau.

Again the Vietnamese people had to take to arms. The armed forces and population of the border provinces quickly rose to combat the aggressors, inflicting deserved counter-strikes against the interventionists. They fought heroically, defending every inch of the motherland's sacred soil.

True to their international duty, the communique stresses, the Soviet Union--the bulwark of peace and the forces of revolution--and other fraternal socialist countries gave our people timely, all-round and effective assistance. Communist and workers parties, the governments of many countries, international democratic organizations and progressive people throughout the world immediately took Vietnam's side and severely condemned the criminal aggression unleashed by the reactionary grouping of China's ruling circles. In the extremely difficult conditions of a cruel fascist regime China's genuine revolutionaries and patriots openly raised their voices in protest against the aggressive war, which further exacerbated the internal contradictions with the Chinese leadership.

Meeting with resolute counterstrikes from Vietnam's army and people, suffering heavy defeats on the fronts and being subjected to resolute condemnation from the public throughout the world, Beijing's reactionary ruling circles were forced to announce the withdrawal of their troops from Vietnam.

In the course of 30 days of truly heroic struggle, the communique says, from February 17 to March 18, the army and population of Vietnam put out of action 62,500 soldiers of the aggressor, totally routed three regiments and 18 battalions, destroyed 550 military vehicles, including 280 tanks and armoured personnel carriers, 115 heavy guns and mortars, seized large quantities of weapons and military equipment, and captured hundreds of the enemy's soldiers.

This glorious victory of the army and people of our country is of big military and political importance. We have secured victory over an army of Chinese aggressors more than half a million strong and defended the independence and territorial integrity of Socialist Vietnam. In securing this victory our people have become even stronger. The people and army continue to be capable of crushing any aggressive military invasion on an even bigger scale, if any such invasion is undertaken by China.

The victory of our people is an important contribution to the strengthening of the might of the socialist system, of the three revolutionary streams of our time. It increased the possibilities for preserving peace and stability in Indochina and in the whole of Southeast Asia. The military adventure of the Chinese reactionaries this time suffered a shameful defeat. They did not achieve their sinister strategic plans.

By unleashing the aggressive war against our country, the communique says further, Beijing's ruling circles fully demonstrated their reactionary, great-power, expansionist and hegemonic essence, the aggressive and belligerent nature of the ruling grouping that is an ally of imperialists and reactionaries of every stripe, a dangerous enemy of peace, democracy and social progress. Beijing's ruling circles also showed their true countenance of traitors of the revolution, of dangerous enemies of the Chinese people.

Our people express sincere gratitude to the Soviet Union, to fraternal socialist countries, to its closest neighbours--Laos and Kampuchea, to the communist and workers' parties, to the governments and mass organisations of other countries, to international democratic organisations, to championsof peace and democracy, to the whole of progressive mankind who in the name of justice again gave the Vietnamese people support in the struggle against the Chinese expansionists, these dangerous enemies of mankind.

On suffering a heavy defeat China's ruling circles were compelled to withdraw their troops from Vietnam but their reactionary essence and their aggressive plans have not changed. They threaten to commit new military adventures directed at the annexation of our country.

In these conditions the entire people and our entire army should have a clear idea about the enemy's bestial essence and about its sinister plans, retain revolutionary vigilance, exert all efforts to fulfill defence and production tasks, steadily strengthen the country's economic and defence potential, be ready to administer a rebuff to all aggressive military actions of the enemy and to make an active contribution to the fulfillment of their glorious internationalist duty.

Shoulder to shoulder with the entire people, the armed forces must strictly and unswervingly follow the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee's appeal and the order on general mobilization and actively work to build the people's [vsenarodnyy] defense, the communique says.

Report of Chinese Damage

LD211121 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[Correspondent V. Skvortsov untitled dispatch under general heading "The Chinese Military's Crimes"]

[Excerpts] Lao Dai City--We are striding along the cobbled former main street of the small town of Pho Lu, which stretches along the Red River. Around us there is nothing, if you discount the heaps of rubble and ash. A dovecote in a backyward and some gates with the inscription "Electrochemical Instrument Production Association" have remain unscathed. But behind these a mountain panorama stretches far into the distance. This is all that remains of the populous, noisy town which stood at the intersection of a railroad and main highway.

We go to a railroad spur. The rails are in place but each of them is displaced: The Chinese used special mines to displace the railbed for many kilometers. The building which housed the district's people's committee and party committee has been razed to the ground. An explosion has scattered furniture, papers and books from the library.

It is about 25 km from Pho Lu to Cah Duong--another small town in Hoang Lien Son Province--which has also been captured by the Chinese. It took us about 90minutes to cover that distance: Bridges had been blown up, the highway had been torn up by tanks and it was dotted with mine craters. Beyond the Red River crossing we reeled at the smell of burned rice. The main grain storage facilities of Bao Thang District used to be located here. With mine-clearing specialists we walked around heaps of ruined grain.

"The aggressors have caused tremendous damage," we were told by Nguyen Ngoc (Bit), member of the People's Committee of Hoang Lien Son Province, who accompanied us on this trip. "The bandits destroyed literally everything--the power station, a cement plant, a canning factory, an industrial oils production enterprise, dozens of workshops, state farms, co-operatives and farmsteads. The equipment at Cam Duong's apatite mine was completely plundered and destroyed."

At the confluence of the Red River and the (Namti) River, only a short distance from the Chinese border, we halted. The Coc Lau Bridge across the Red River, which leads to the part of Lao Cai lying across the river, and the (Khokiyeu) Bridge across the (Namti) had been blown up.

"Have the aggressors left your province completely?" We asked Lt (Khuang Te), chief of the border post.

"According to the latest information," he replied, "Chinese remain in certain individual localities of the districts of Bat Xat and Muong Khuong to the west and east of Lao Cai. But we shall drive them out of there!"

SRV Note to PRC Embassy

LD211822 Moscow TASS in English 1729 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Hanoi, March 21, TASS--The government and people of Vietnam, upholding the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the motherland, repulsed the aggression of China's ruling circles and invariably strive for the solution of outstanding issues between the two countries by way of talks, says a note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the PRC Embassy in Hanoi. The note was circulated at a press conference held here today by Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Phan Hein.

The note says that in the course of March the Vietnamese side has repeatedly outlined its stand in respect of talks on the normalisation of relations between the SRV and the PRC. Vietnam is prepared to start talks with China to work out measures for the establishment of a stable border, preservation of peace and restoration of normal relations between the two countries immediately after the withdrawal by the PRC of all its troops behind the line of the historically formed border recognised by both sides.

But despite the statements by China's ruling circles about the completion of the withdrawal of their troops by March 16th, the Chinese Army continues to retain on the territory of Vietnam 16 points and three areas. Some of them are from ten to 20 kilometres inside the border. Chinese troops continue to perpetrate crimes against the peaceful population, to move border marker posts deep into the SRV, are making new violations of the state border. This shows that Beijing's ruling circles are not fulfilling their promises, thereby obstructing the speediest commencement of talks, continue to threaten Vietnam with a resumption of the aggressive war.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam constantly displays goodwill and strives to preserve the traditional friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples. If by March 28, 1979 the Chinese Army fully withdraws from our land, the Vietnamese side proposes to commence talks on March 29 this year in Hanoi and Beijing (the first round of talks in Hanoi).

The note stresses that if the Chinese troops continue to occupy Vietnamese territory, the army and people of Vietnam will resolutely exercise their right to self-defence, defence of the country's independence and sovereignty. Responsibility for the delay in the beginning of the talks rests entirely with the Chinese side.

Vietnamese Victory Rallies

LD211640 Moscow TASS in English 1534 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] Hanoi, March 21, TASS--The Vietnamese people is widely and festively celebrating victory over the clique of Chinese aggressors who dared encroach on the independence, freedom and territorial integrity of the socialist republic.

Meetings devoted to this victory are being held in Hanoi, Haiphong and other cities and provincial centers, manifesting the population's full support for the policy of the party and Government of Vietnam and the people's resolve to devote all their strength to the defence and build-up of the motherland.

More than 30,000 residents of the Vietnamese capital attended a rally in the centre of the city. The chairman of the People's Committee of Hanoi Tran Vi underlined the tremendous importance of the victory by the army and people of Vietnam over the Chinese hegemonists, who unleashed an aggressive war against the SRV. He voiced gratitude to the Soviet Union and other fraternal countries and peace-loving peoples for their solidarity and support of the Vietnamese people's righteous cause. The speaker urged the people of Hanoi to exercise vigilance in regard to machinations of the Chinese expansionists.

Continuing Military Action

LD211642 Moscow TASS in English 1538 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

["The Aggressors Do Not Want To Leave"--TASS headline]

[Text] Hanoi, March 21, TASS--Chinese troops are still operating on the territory of Vietnam in a number of northern provinces. The deepest location of their units on Vietnamese territory in the area of Cao Bang is up to 15 kilometres. The biggest Chinese groupings are 20 kilometres to the north of the town of That Khe, to the south and northeast of the town of Cha Linh and also about 50 kilometres to the northeast of Lao Cai.

In recent days the Chinese occupationists are also employing the tactics of so-called shuttle raids across the border into the territory of Vietnam where they seize individual points, especially in the so-called "disputed" areas and return to the territory of China only on the approach of Vietnamese troops. This explains, in particular, the fact that the number of points occupied by the Chinese has grown somewhat in recent days. From their territory the Chinese are shelling the town of Mong Cai and an area near the populated locality of Ti Ma.

Several Chinese prisoners of war were presented recently to Vietnamese and foreign correspondents. Replying to questions the Chinese prisoners of war contended that they had not known that they were being sent to fight on Vietnamese territory because their commanders told them that they were to fight Vietnamese who had allegedly intruded into Chinese territory. Some of the prisoners of war said that they had no knowledge at all that they were going to fight against Vietnamese because they were not told where they were being taken.

Soviet Dock Workers in Haiphong

LD211820 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1556 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

["Fraternal Aid"--TASS headline]

[Text] Haiphong--The MV Olga Androvskaya has arrived here, delivering to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] a detachment of Soviet volunteer dockers. It includes over 150 qualified port workers, engineers and specialists. They have come to Vietnam in order to help their colleagues from the fraternal country to organize the efficient and smooth operation of Haiphong port.

Almost two-thirds of the seaborne goods delivered to the SRV pass through its wharves. Here begins a firm maritime bridge of friendship linking Socialist Vietnam with many countries.

Soviet ships regularly delivered goods to the struggling Vietnamese people in the years of the U.S. aggression, during the peaceful creative construction, and now, when heroic Vietnam has repulsed the criminal aggression unleashed by the ruling circles of China.

The residents of Haiphong gave a cordial welcome to the Soviet port workers. A mass meeting was held in the port. Nguyen Tuong Lan, candidate member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee and SRV deputy minister of transport and communications, spoke at it, stressing the enormous significance of Vietnam's victory over the Chinese aggressors. The experience and knowledge of Soviet port workers are a great contribution to the cause of increasing the efficiency of the work of Haiphong port, and of insuring the reception and dispatch of important economic goods needed to restore the damage done to the economy of regions bordering on China as a result of the barbarous aggression.

Nguyen Tuong Lan expressed heartfelt gratitude to the CPSU and to the government and fraternal people of the Soviet Union for their aid and support to Vietnam.

LAO PRESIDENT BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT TO CAMBODIA

LD211320 Moscow TASS in English 1225 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 21, TASS --A delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos, led by President Souphanouvong, has arrived in the capital of the People's Republic of Kampuchea for an official friendly visit, the Kampuchean news agency (SPK) reports. Kampuchean-Laotian talks have begun here. The delegation of the People's Republic of Kampuchea is led by Heng Samrin, chairman of the People's Revolutionary Council, and the Laotian delegation is led by President Souphanouvong.

Vientiane, March 21, TASS--XIENG PASASON, the newspaper of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Laos, stresses that this visit marks a historic event in the consolidation of solidarity and close friendship between the peoples and governments of the two countries, a new stage in the development of Laotian-Kampuchean relations and it will help strengthen the positions of socialism in Southeast Asia. The powerful support of the socialist countries and the solidarity of all the progressive forces of the world are turning Laotian-Kampuchean friendship into a force which cannot be shaken by any machinations of imperialism and international reaction, XIENG PASASON stresses.

JAPANESE GENERAL BEGINS AUSTRALASIAN TRIP

LD171648 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1233 GMT 17 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 17, TASS--General Takehiko Takashina, chairman of the Joint Staff Council of the Japanese Self Defense Forces, left today on a 2-week trip to Australia and New Zealand, where he will hold talks with the military chiefs of these countries. General Takashina's foreign trip is considered by the press to bear witness to Tokyo's efforts to strengthen its military links with those states. It reflects the schemes of Japanese ruling circles to enhance Japan's military role in Asia and the Pacific Ocean area.

Japan has activated its military strategy in the Asiatic-Pacific Ocean region with the knowledge and encouragement of Washington. After its defeat in Indochina the United States has started to transfer to Japan part of the responsibility for insuring imperialist interests in this part of the world. Tokyo is stepping up its military-political efforts in Asia and the Pacific Ocean basin, through which it is pursuing another aim apart from military interests, that of extending the economic expansion of Japanese monopolies.

UKRAINIAN CULTURE DAYS OPEN IN ZAGREB 20 MARCH

AU211100 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 0810 GMT 21 Mar 79 AU

[From the press review]

[Text] The Days of Ukrainian Culture in Croatia were inaugurated yesterday at a solemn ceremony in the Vatroslav Lisinksi Concert Hall in Zagreb. The papers report the arrival of a delegation of the Soviet Ukraine, headed by Bezklubenko, Ukrainian minister of culture, in Zagreb to participate in the days. The Ukraine's best musical and dance collectives will perform for 7 days in Zagreb, Split, Rijeka and other cities of the republic; film festivals will be held and there will be book, picture, decorative and applied art exhibits. The Days of Ukrainian Culture in Croatia mark an important stage in strengthening and expanding Soviet-Yugoslav cultural cooperation.

SOVIET-GDR TALKS ON ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC TIES OPEN

LD220855 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 79 p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--The 24th session of the USSR-GDR intergovernmental commission on economic, scientific and technical cooperation opened in Moscow 19 March. Opening the session, N.A. Tikhonov, head of the USSR delegation, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, noted that the main attention at the session will be devoted to the program for specialization and production sharing between the USSR and the GDR through 1990, which is being elaborated in accordance with an agreement between Comrades L.I. Brezhnev and E. Honecker. G. Schuerer, head of the GDR delegation, candidate member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, stated that the republic's working people, preparing a fitting greeting for the 30th anniversary of the GDR, are seeking to develop economic, scientific and technical cooperation with the Soviet Union more broadly, which will make it possible to increase production efficiency in both countries' national economies.

KADAR, OTHER HUNGARIAN LEADERS RECEIVE KULIKOV IN BUDAPEST

LD201429 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Mar 79 p 3 LD

[Text] Budapest, 17 March, TASS--J. Kadar, first secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee, yesterday received Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces. Taking part in talks which were held in a cordial and comradely atmosphere were G. Lazar, member of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo, and Army Gen L. Czinege, Hungarian defense minister.

KUNAYEV RECEIVES POLISH AMBASSADOR IN ALMA-ATA

AU211014 Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Russian 1510 GMT 20 Mar 79 AU

[Text] Today Dinmukhamed Akhmedovich Kunayev, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee first secretary, received Olszewski, Polish ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the USSR, who is now in Alma-Ata, at the latter's request. In a friendly conversation, opinions were exchanged in detail on issues of mutual interest. Olszewski cordially expressed gratitude for the reception given to him. Present at the conversation was Bazarbayev, Kazakh minister of foreign affairs.

NATO ARGUMENTS FAVORING 'EUROMISSILES' REJECTED

LD211229 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Mar 79 p 3 LD

[Col M. Ponomarev military and political review: "Gambling on the Euromissile"]

[Text] The dramatic events in Southeast Asia and the Middle and Near East have to some extent diverted world public attention away from NATO's militarist preparations. This certainly does not mean, however, that the Atlanticists have ceased such preparations or even slackened their pace. On the contrary, the bloc's leadership is implementing the arms increase and modernization program approved in Washington last spring more vigorously than ever. The feverish activity to develop a so-called "Eurostrategic deterrent" or "Euromissiles" shows this particularly clearly.

What lies behind these terms which recently began turning up in Western newspapers and magazines and in speeches by politicians and NATO military leaders? Stated briefly, they refer to the Pentagon's desire to develop and deploy on the territory of its Western European bloc partners new medium-range, as the Americans term them, missiles with nuclear warheads--missiles which would be aimed at the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact states.

The question of whether to develop such missiles has been under discussion in the West for quite a long time. It acquired a dimension of reality at the U.S., British, French and FRG leaders' summit meeting on the island of Guadeloupe last January. True, as was reported, no final decision was made at the meeting, but since then the United States has been actively trying to talk its allies into agreeing to deploy the new missile. At the same time a vociferous propaganda campaign has begun, aimed at channeling public opinion in NATO countries in the appropriate direction. At every turn its organizers shout about the complete "defenselessness" of the European countries in the North Atlantic bloc in the face of the threat allegedly posed by the Soviet Union.

The mendacity and provocative nature of such fabrications are well enough known. Realistic Western politicians have themselves on a number of occasions pointed out the approximate parity of armed forces and arms between the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries confronting each other in Europe. The stability of the European situation depends largely on this parity. It is noteworthy that even FRG Defense Minister H. Apel admitted the other day that central Europe "is now more secure than ever before in its history."

But diametrically opposed views on this question are being voiced. Contrary to the facts, NATO Military Committee Chairman General Gundersen is publicly claiming that "military parity with the Soviet Union" is continually being eroded "in favor of the Soviet bloc." He is echoed by the chairman of the West German Bundestag's commission on defense questions, Christian Democrat M. Werner. "During the Vienna talks the USSR increased its armed forces in central Europe," he slanderously declares.

Using these false fabrications as a cover, the enemies of detente insist on the need for more military appropriations, more airplanes, tanks, ships and--in particular--more missiles. This time the missiles are "Eurostrategic." Without them, they say, the North Atlantic bloc is utterly defenseless.

Is this the case? Let us examine just what nuclear missile weapons the "defenseless" NATO countries do in fact have in Europe.

What is more, we will use a reference book by the London-based Institute for Strategic Studies--"The Military Balance 1978-1979"--and information given in the Western media.

Well, according to this information the United States has more than 7,000 nuclear warheads in Europe, where it also has 8 tactical airforce wings--around 700 F-4's, F-111's, F-15's and F-16's--capable of carrying nuclear weapons as well as more than 100 Pershing-1A missiles with a range of more than 700 km, Lance and Honest John tactical missiles, and more than 500 155mm and 203mm M-109 and M-110 artillery pieces designed to fire nuclear warheads. Moreover, there are around 1,000 nuclear warheads and planes capable of carrying the warheads onboard the U.S. aircraft carriers and other vessels continuously cruising in the Mediterranean and the eastern Atlantic. U.S. Navy nuclear submarines carrying Polaris and Poseidon nuclear missiles also operate there.

The other NATO countries also have nuclear weapons and delivery vehicles. Britain has 4 nuclear submarines, each carrying 16 Polaris A3's, and 48 Vulcan strategic bombers. France has nuclear submarines equipped with missiles with nuclear warheads, Mirage 4A strategic bombers (some 35-40 are in service), 18 medium-range ballistic missiles, and Pluton tactical missiles. In its arsenals the West German Bundeswehr also has Pershing missiles(72), as well as Lance and Honest John and other nuclear weapon delivery vehicles.

Even this far from complete list completely disproves the fabrications of the enemies of detente about the West European NATO countries' "lack of arms" and "defenselessness" in the face of the "threat from the East" that they have invented. But all this is not enough for the apostles of the arms race. At a recent Munich conference of military experts, politicians and diplomats from the leading bloc countries, organized by the magazine EUROPAEISCHE WEHRKUNDE, voices were heard in favor of equipping NATO with a new tactical nuclear missile system. Gen A. Haig, supreme commander of the North Atlantic bloc's Joint Armed Forces in Europe, is also demanding a new medium-range missile.

The United States has undertaken the development of such a missile. The draft U.S. military budget for FY 1980 envisages the appropriation of a large sum of money for the creation of the Pershing-2 missile, with a range of presumably 1,600-1,800 km. The Pentagon has already concluded a contract worth a total of $360 million with the Martin-Marietta Corporation for the design and production of this missile. Moreover, the development of a ground-based cruise missile is continuing, and plans are also being discussed for the creation of yet another medium-range missile intended for deployment in Western Europe.

The question of the "Eurostrategic" missiles became one of the central issues in the debate on security problems which has just ended in the FRG Bundestag. Sensible thoughts were expressed in the speeches of a number of ruling coalition figures concerning the need to deepen detente and strengthen security in Europe. At the same time, representatives of the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union [CDU/CSU]--the party of big capital--insistently demanded that the government seek to secure the deployment of new U.S. missiles on FRG territory, the equipping of NATO armed forces with neutron weapons, and even...the placing of nuclear weapons at the Bundeswehr's disposal. "The geographical position of our country virtually compels us to deploy the new arms systems," CSU spokesman F. Zimmermann asserted at the Bundestag session. CDU Deputy W. Marx also demanded that the government consent to the deployment of the new U.S. nuclear missiles in the FRG.

These voices are being heard with special attention across the ocean. While seeking to take the heat out of the world public's legitimate alarm over the "Eurostrategic" ambitions of the Pentagon and NATO, Washington is reluctant to assume full responsibility for solving the question of creating new medium-range missiles and their deployment in Western Europe. The White House would like first of all to enlist the concurrence of its NATO partners on this score, and above all that of the FRG. However, Bonn recently declared that it cannot give this consent until, as the New York TIMES wrote, "such time as other allied countries too have decided to deploy it (that is, the new missile--KRASNAYA ZVEZDA editor) on their territory."

However, the United States does not consider the FRG's decision as final. It is assumed in the United States that, given the requisite pressure from without and within, Bonn's course could be changed . In this connection a report by the Italian newspaper LA STAMPA from Brussels is not without interest. The NATO leadership, the newspaper wrote, intends to request that Italy permit the deployment of new types of medium-range U.S. missiles on its territory. The FRG, LA STAMPA explains, is in principle prepared to deploy such missiles provided that other NATO countries act likewise. This explains the proposal addressed to Italy.

The West European countries have still not made a final decision. But the danger of the Pentagon and Atlantic strategists' plans has not diminished because of this. On the contrary, they show that the militarist preparations within the framework or NATO continue to represent a serious threat to the peoples' security. Many political and military figures of the North Atlantic bloc continue even today to think in cold war terms and even, at times, in hot war terms too. "I am prepared to use nuclear weapons" Gen G. Blanchard, commander of U.S. Ground Forces in Europe, declared in a fit of candor. It is, after all, precisely in his hands that it is proposed to place the new "Eurostrategic" weapons.

In his speech at the meeting with the voters of Moscow's Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev fittingly rebuffed the plans for the deployment in Western Europe, and in the FRG in particular, of new types of nuclear missile weaponry directed against the Soviet Union. "...The practical implementation of these plans, just like the implementation of the U.S. military's schemes regarding neutron weapons," L.I. Brezhnev stressed, "would lead only to a new growth of tension in Europe, to a new surge in the arms race and, moreover, to a sharp increase in danger to the FRG itself."

The Atlanticists' gamble on "Eurostrategic" weapons requires even greater vigilance from the peoples and even more active efforts to expose the opponents of the relaxation of tension and of the enemies of peace and international security.

SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ALWAYS PROMOTE DETENTE IN EUROPE

LD211541 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Mar 79 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[N. Novikov article: "Europe's Example"]

[Text] Is it worth recalling the simple truth that Europe has always played a special part in the history of mankind? The classes which had taken shape transformed society on new, more progressive foundations on the old continent before they did on others. The revolutionary storms destroying the old orders and asserting the new social system swept first over Europe. [paragraph continues]

In our time, too, Europe does not remain in the shadows with respect to any of the most important events taking place in the world arena. When clouds threatening a new military conflagration began to thicken over the continent, many countries which cherished Europe's destiny could not remain aloof from this development of events. It is most notable that it was precisely the Warsaw Pact states, which embodied the new Europe, which took the initiative to call on the European countries and all social forces advocating peace to make joint efforts--efforts to create a lasting system of security on the continent.

The problem of European security has long been on the agenda of history, and it was particularly exacerbated after the shot rang out in Sarajevo and Kaiser Wilhelm II sent his divisions to the trenches, promising that they would return home "before the autumn leaves fall." World War II broke out two decades after World War I. The lessons of recent history have forced the peoples to draw serious conclusions. Painstaking, laborious work is underway in Europe to form peaceful and constructive interstate relations, which should be asserted on a worldwide scale. A real prospect of preserving lasting peace was opened up before the European people in the continent's long-suffering history. Yes, here, on the European Continent, a model of peaceful coexistence was created which was designed to insure the security and cooperation of the European peoples based on the principles jointly elaborated by representatives of all European states and the United States and Canada at the Helsinki conference in 1975. Life attests that this model exerts and will continue to exert growing influence on the entire world situation and on the development of all progressive trends in the economic, political and social spheres.

The socialist community countries actively advocate that Europe really become a continent of reliable security and peaceful coexistence in accordance with the aims of the Final Act of the all-European conference. Pursuing these noble aims, the Soviet Union and other fraternal countries are successfully developing relations with France, the FRG, Italy, Britain, Finland, Austria, the Scandinavian and other European countries and with Canada. It should be noted that back in the midsixties a foundation was laid to Soviet-French cooperation under the flag of the struggle for the relaxation of tension. This cooperation in many ways promoted a marked improvement in the European political climate.

In his interview with TIME magazine L.I Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, expressed the conviction that good-neighborliness--irrespective of differences in political systems and views--is the best line in interstate relations. Europe has been convinced by its harsh and bitter historical experience that this is indeed the case. This is graphically borne out by the active, varied ties between the socialist states and the West European countries. L.I. Brezhnev's visit to the FRG in May 1978 was a notable event on this plane. There is no doubt that summit level talks in Moscow with representatives of Austria, Greece, Turkey, Finland, Spain and other countries have promoted the further consolidation of European cooperation. At the end of March French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing will visit the Soviet Union. Summit meetings between the Soviet and French leaders have always lent beneficial impetus to cooperation and made a real contribution to the consolidation of peace. The peoples of the Soviet Union express the conviction that the French president's forthcoming visit to the USSR will open up new prospects for mutually advantageous, all-round cooperation between our countries and will promote the intensification and expansion of international detente.

The overwhelming majority of European states agree unanimously that detente is advantageous and useful to all. They also believe that it must be supported and developed by every means, since there is no sensible alternative. But the relaxation of tension has been noticeably delayed recently. "What is the relaxation of tension? What do we include in this concept?" L.I. Brezhnev asked. "Detente is above all overcoming the cold war, the transition to normal, equal relations between states. Detente is the readiness to resolve differences and disputes not by force, not by threats and saber-rattling but by peaceful means, at the conference table. Detente is a certain trust and the ability to consider each other's legitimate interests."

It is clear to every unprejudiced person that detente is the only possible form of mutual relations between states in the world today which wholly and fully accords with the interests of the broadest masses and all peoples. On the other hand, the actions of the militarist circles of imperialism, under cover of the false thesis of the "Soviet threat," are pushing the NATO countries onto the dangerous path of further building up weapons arsenals and the increasing military expenditure. They represent a real and ever-growing threat to the peoples' security.

As for the fabrication about the "Soviet threat," this is an old, worn-out notion. This myth has a unique history. Bourgeois propaganda began a hue and cry about the "Soviet threat" back at the dawn of Soviet power, when interventionists from some 15 countries invaded the territory of the motherland of October in an attempt to stifle the worker-peasant state and restore the old system. British Prime Minister Chamberlain also made a great fuss about the "Soviet threat" when concluding the shameful Munich pact with Hitler aimed at turning fascist Germany's aggressive aspiration against the USSR. In 1941 the Nazis covered their piratical attack against the Soviet Union with an unbridled campaign and heart-rending screams about the "Soviet threat."

A completely different situation has now formed in Europe. Beneficial changes are quite palpable throughout Europe. Nonetheless, the schizophrenic illusions about the "Soviet threat" are repeated again and again. As the New York TIMES notes, Harvard University Sovietologist Richard Pipes and former U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Nitze, in an attempt to intimidate the Europeans, paint the following fantastic picture: "Russian tanks break through to points on the Fulda on the central European front and move on West Germany; Soviet submarines penetrate the icy waters north of Norway and bring Oslo to its knees; the Russians block the sea lines of communication around Africa and other very important regions; the Russians make a preemptive strike with their ICBM's against the U.S. Minuteman missiles trapped in their stationary launch silos...." An improbable fantasy produced by the inflamed brains of the Soviet Union's enemies! We cannot fail to conclude that some people in the West are very much averse to political detente and in particular to the intention to back it up by reducing the concentration of the two sides' military forces in central Europe.

Regarding NATO as one of the chief instruments for achieving its objectives, Washington is keeping alert to insure that its partners in the aggressive bloc pursue a domestic and foreign policy that suits the U.S. ruling circles. Having deployed its troops on its allies' territory for this purpose, the United States uses these troops as a means of exerting pressure on governments and as an instrument for interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states. The Italian weekly L'EUROPEO has published some secret instructions from which it is clear that the U.S. Army intelligence service, operating with the CIA, is infiltrating agents into the state institutions of "friendly countries," into their armed forces and into their security organs. [paragraph continues]

In accordance with these instructions the U.S. secret services use dirty methods like bribery, blackmail, provocations and acts of terrorism, organize the assassination of politicians and public figures and introduce paid agents into groupings of both left and right extremists. The Pentagon also envisages direct military intervention by the U.S. Army if the policy of any particular country no longer meets Washington's requirements.

And so, despite considerable positive changes in Europe and the world, the forces of imperialism and reaction which are seeking to hinder the radical improvement of the international political climate have grown appreciably more active. The present Chinese leaders who are pursuing expansionist, hegemonist objectives and seeking cooperation with imperialist reaction on the basis of struggle against the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, are acting as the direct accomplices of these forces. The Beijing leaders unleashed bloody aggression against the heroic Vietnamese people. All progressive mankind stigmatizes the Chinese militarists. There has been an outcry of anger and indignation against the Beijing interventionists.

The following facts too by no means fit in with the post-Helsinki political climate of Europe: NATO'S numerous military demonstrations in the FRG Luxembourg's making available its territory for the building of two military bases for the U.S. Armed Forces; Norway's intention to sanction stocks of NATO equipment and combat material on its territory, the playing of the "Greek card" against Turkey and of the "Turkish Card" against Greece for the purpose of subordinating these countries even further to the interests of the Pentagon and the North Atlantic bloc, and the attempts to impose on Cyprus a settlement that suits NATO.

"The top-priority task now," Comrade L.I.Brezhnev said in his speech at the election meeting with voters of Moscow's Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug, "Is to extend detente to the military sphere. This is especially essential because the NATO bloc is feverishly building up its armaments and thus complicating the situation in Europe. But we are seeking to achieve an understanding on realistic measures for reducing the level of military confrontation on the continent which will strengthen the foundations of European peace. So far, unfortunately, there has been no progress on this plane." The Vienna talks are an example of this. They are currently bogged down in disputes regarding the methods of computing the size of the sides' armed forces. This tactic of the Western countries cannot be assessed other than as an attempt to avoid reaching an understanding just at a time when the sides' positions on the essential issues have drawn considerably closer together. It is common knowledge that an overall military balance has developed on the European Continent. Even if there are differences in the structure of the armed forces of each individual country. Naturally it is necessary to proceed from this at the talks.

As far as the socialist community countries' proposals are concerned, they are well known. In the framework of these proposals the Soviet Union, as a start, is prepared to withdraw over a period of 1 year from central Europe some 30,000 of its military personnel and a considerable quantity of military equipment, including 1,000 tanks, provided that the United States reduces its own armed forces--though on a smaller scale--in this region. So far the Western countries have not made a concrete response. Therefore, the Vienna talks are not progressing and this is hampering the further warming of the European political climate.

The socialist community countries are tirelessly seeking ways of broadening and deepening detente in Europe. Eloquent evidence of this is provided by the Moscow Declaration adopted by the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee.

The socialist countries have once again acted as a powerful and effective factor of peace and stability in international relations. They clearly defined the priority tasks the implementation of which could decisively promote the establishment of broad peaceful cooperation both in Europe and throughout the world. Back in 1976 the Warsaw Pact countries came forward with a proposal that the states which participated in the all-European conference undertake to renounce first use of nuclear weapons against each other. After this initiative, people in the West began asserting that this would make wars using conventional weapons more probable. On 2 March 1979 Comrade L.I. Brezhnev proposed that an understanding be reached on renouncing first use of both nuclear and conventional weapons. He proposed the conclusion of something like a nonaggression pact among the participants of the all-European conference. This initiative is perfectly in accordance with the spirit of Helsinki and would promote the diminution of the arms race.

A key problem of contemporary international life is the task of securing a decisive turn toward ending the arms race and toward disarmament. Supreme wisdom today consists not in spurring on the arms race and intensifying the danger of nuclear catastrophe, but in freeing mankind from the threat of a new war--such is the conclusion reached in the Warsaw Pact member states' declaration. The results of the Moscow conference of the Political Consultative Committee provided a new and energetic impetus to the struggle to improve the European and international situation and to overcome those difficulties and obstacles which still stand in its way.

The peoples of Europe and all mankind are vitally interested in consolidating detente. Peace, detente, disarmament are an order of the times. Consistently advocating the realization of these lofty goals in an alliance with other democratic, peace-loving forces, the socialist community countries are thereby channeling world events in the direction of social progress and are upholding the vitally important interests of all mankind.

CRITICISM OF 'ENDLESS FAILURES' OF UK DIPLOMACY UNABATING

LD220730 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Vladimir Vyazdov commentary]

[Text] In his book "Human Rights", the British foreign secretary, David Owen, claims that Anglo-Saxon philosophical and political traditions are fundamentally empirical. That may be so. But when one examines some of the specific achievements of British diplomacy they exhibit some very distinct features. Take what has been accomplished in reducing international tensions. The British contribution here appears decidedly smaller than that of other countries, and here I mean Western countries too. Moreover, British efforts in this respect have zigzagged and have been anything but consistent. In the context of East-West relations this has been reflected in the fact that certain political circles in Britain have probably been more active than their counterparts in other Western countries in trying to exert influence on the Soviet Union. And by influence; in this case, I mean everything to the extent of attempts at interference in the Soviet Union's internal affairs and open incitement to torpedo next year's Olympic games in Moscow.

The sole result of all this has been that the Soviet Union's relations with Britain are far behind its relations with other Western countries. More persistent and louder than in many other countries, is the campaign in Britain about what is said to be a Soviet threat. The obsession with Soviet tanks, supposedly poised to forge across the English Channel, is of course completely refuted by the entire logic behind Soviet home and foreign policies.

Indeed, when one examines the matter more closely it becomes quite obvious that it has been Britain that has been threatening the Soviet Union, and in no uncertain terms, throughout the history of the relations between the two countries. This may be traced as far back as Britain's participation in the foreign intervention against the young Soviet state, and it has continued right up to, say, last year's statement by Sir Neil Cameron, the chief of the defence staff, to the effect that Britain and China have a common enemy in Moscow. Nor can one describe as anything but diplomatically unfortunate the idea of selling arms to a country whose leaders openly proclaim expansionist plans with respect to their neighbors. Or take again the idea of sending an official delegation to Beijing, headed by Industry Secretary Eric Varley, for negotiating the sale of Harrier military aircraft. And this at a time when China's aggression is mounting against Vietnam.

True, there are other Western countries too that are indirectly encouraging the Beijing aggressors. But London seems to have left the field behind in this respect, and, blinded by the possibility of securing some additional sterling, chooses to shut its eyes to Beijing's policies that are so dangerous to peace. Then again, banking on the shah's regime in Iran for so many years has likewise proved to be a major miscalculation by British diplomacy. The shah is no more, and Iran has ceased to be a buyer of vast amounts of British arms. It has simply dropped out of the dangerous military-political game in which the Western countries, and Britain among them, assigned it the role of an important strategic outpost right on the border of the Soviet Union. And London stubbornly refuses to recognize the idea that a country may belong to the people living in it.

The political significance of the Iranian events is seen by THE DAILY TELEGRAPH's diplomatic correspondent in the fact that the country, enormously important in strategic position and mineral resources, has ceased to be a bastion of Western influence and has become a no man's land on the border of the Soviet Union. Noteworthy too is the situation developing in Britain's relations with some of the Persian Gulf states, an area of major importance, from which the Western countries get much of the oil they vitally need. London is in every way trying to demonstrate its backing for some of the political regimes in that part of the world, regimes that, according to the admissions of even the British press, are far from democratic, needless to say, in the Western sense of the word.

At the same time the leaders of the Persian Gulf Arab states are openly voicing apprehension that NATO and British aid may be their political undoing. The British foreign secretary, David Owen, after touring these countries during the royal visit, said bluntly that they fear the allegedly friendly British participation in the affairs of the region.

So it is that history is inflicting severe blows on British diplomacy, which is under harsh criticism both at home and abroad. Nonetheless, that diplomacy staunchly follows tradition. Last autumn there was again much discussion in Britain over the fate of the country's foreign policy. One group proposed, in the course of this debate, that about one-quarter of Britain's missions abroad be closed down. The government turned down this proposal. Nevertheless the criticism of endless failures of British diplomacy does not appear to have abated in the country.

BRITISH POLITICIANS 'LEARNED NOTHING' FROM RECENT EVENTS

LD220750 Moscow TASS in English 0650 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] London, Mar 21, TASS--Speaking in the House of Commons Britain's Secretary of State for Defense Frederick Mulley admitted that the CENTO military bloc ceased to exist.

The defence secretary said that the exercises planned to be held in the bloc's framework before the end of this year will, evidently, not be held.

The British secretary of state for defence had to admit this after the governments of Pakistan, Iran and Turkey announced their decision to quit CENTO and to annul in this connection their commitments to the bloc.

The military bloc formed in 1955 was initially called the Baghdad Pact. After the revolution in Iraq in 1958 and Iraq's withdrawal from the pact it was named the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO). Its members in recent years were Britain, Turkey, Iran and Pakistan. The United States that was formally not a member of the bloc cooperated actively with it.

Remaining alone after CENTO's disintegration, Britain is now trying to put a good face on the matter. According to Frederick Mulley, London intends to hold consultation with its allies as to what "contribution" it could make toward "maintaining stability" in the Persian Gulf area. In other words, Britain would like to play the role of a gendarme in the region. The British politicians, obviously, learned nothing from the recent events.

NEW ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPENDS ON OTHER PARTIES' SUPPORT

LD211234 Moscow TASS in English 1120 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

["Italy: Cabinet Sworn In"--TASS headline]

[Text] Rome, March 21, TASS--The new Italian Cabinet formed by Christian Democrat Giulio Andreotti has been sworn in today. The Cabinet includes representatives of three parties: Christian Democrats, Social Democrats and Republicans. Like the preceding cabinet, which resigned seven weeks ago, it is headed by Giulio Andreotti. The other key posts will continue to be held by representatives of the Christian Democratic Party. The post of foreign minister will be held by Arnaldo Forlani, minister of the interior--Virginio Rognoni, and defence minister--Attilio Ruffini. Republican Ugo La Malfa has been appointed vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of budget. Social Democrats and Republicans have received a total of seven ministerial portfolios.

The present three-party government has no parliamentary majority. Its existence will depend on whether it succeeds in winning the support of other parties during voting in Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. It has been announced that voting in the Parliament is to be held next week.

PARADE OF 'NAZI CRIMINALS' IN NATO RANKS UNCEASING

LD181322 Moscow TASS in English 1240 GMT 18 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 18, TASS--The Nazi past of NATO Secretary-General Joseph Luns, to put it frankly, is by no means a sensational discovery to NATO. It is rather a part of the thirty-years-long biography of the alliance, Nikolay Polyanov writes in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA today. Paradoxical as it may seem, the North Atlantic alliance which solemnly declared in its main document (the Washington Treaty of 1949) that it will always observe "the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law", has never done, actually, without the services of Nazis, Nikolay Polyanov points out.

Nazi General Hans Speidel, who should have [been] in the dock as a war criminal for long years commanded the land Atlantic forces in the central zone of Europe.

Nazi General Adolf Heusinger, who should have been Speidel's nearest neighbour in the dock, held the high post of the chairman of the Permanent Military Committee. Former NATO officers Von Kilmanseg, Verber and others had started their careers in the Wehrmacht and participated in its murderous campaigns. And the present supreme allied commander of NATO armed forces in Central Europe General Schultz had been at one time in Hitler's good graces and received one of the highest military orders from his hands.

"As we see it," Nikolay Polyanov writes, "the Atlanticists have something to look back upon: The parade of Nazi criminals in their ranks has never ceased for a minute throughout the thirty years. On the occasion of the forthcoming jubilee festivities, it is permissible to ask: Shouldn't NATO change its official colour? Up to now it has been blue. Brown colour would be a better match."

SOVIET CALL FOR EXTRADITION OF DUTCH WAR CRIMINAL SUPPORTED

LD191758 Moscow TASS in English 1640 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

["Criminal Must Be Punished"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 19, TASS--"The Soviet people that lost 20 million of its citizens in the struggle against the fascist invasion declares for revealing and punishment of Nazi criminals no matter where they are hiding, for eradication of the man-hating ideology and practice of fascism", the newspaper IZVESTIYA writes in connection with the address of the USSR Government to the Government of the Netherlands, demanding the extradition of Nazi war criminal Pieter Menten. Menten is guilty of mass executions in the years of World War Two of peaceful people, including women, children and old people, in the temporarily occupied territory of the USSR.

The Soviet people see in revealing and punishing Nazi criminals "an earnest of the implementation of the ideals for which European peoples fought in the years of the war against Nazism, and, above all, the task of creating in the European Continent the atmosphere of genuine peace, security and cooperation. The public of the Soviet Union, just as the public of the Netherlands and many other countries, holds that hangman Menten must not avoid responsibility. This is why the Soviet public fully supports the just demand for the extradition of the criminal to the Soviet judiciary bodies".

The prosecution and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes is the principle binding each state under contemporary international law.

BRIEFS

IRELAND NATIONAL DAY MEETING--Moscow, March 16, TASS--A meeting devoted to a national holiday of Ireland was held in Moscow's Friendship House today. Taking part in it were representatives of the "USSR-Ireland" Society, the ambassador of Ireland in the USSR Edward John Brennan, and a delegation of the "Ireland-USSR" Society. The speakers congratulated the people of Ireland upon the holiday, expressed their desire to see Soviet-Irish relations further developing for the good of the two countries, in the interests of consolidating detente and strengthening international cooperation. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1607 GMT 16 Mar 79 LD]

SOVIET COMMENT, REPORTAGE ON PROPOSED EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TREATY

Publication of Draft Treaty

LD212234 Moscow TASS in English 2145 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Cairo, March 21, TASS--The paper AL-AHRAM has published the draft Egyptian-Israeli treaty and the text of a separate letter exchanged by the sides on the so-called "autonomy" for the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Sector.

The publication is explained here by the fact that at the recent session of the parliamentary fraction of Egypt's ruling party a number of participants voiced annoyance by the fact that they are merely given explanations about the content of the treaty and its supplements, while the text itself was kept secret. Giving publicity to the drafts of Egyptian-Israeli documents sheds light on the essence of the so-far secret new American proposals, on whose basis the controversial matters were agreed, as the U.S. President announced.

The document on the so-called "autonomy" on the West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza Sector repeats the old Camp David formulations but the wording is tougher. The already puny measures envisaged by them, such as elections to the administrative "self-administration" bodies, etc., will be implemented only provided the "sides achieve agreement" during one-year-long negotiations. The document does not even mention any linkage between the granting of "autonomy to the Palestinians" and the separate Egyptian-Israeli treaty, on which a compromise formula was allegedly reached during the recent negotiations.'

All this indicates that the demonstration of Cairo's "toughness," of which so much was said and written these last months, was nothing but a cover-up and that the concessions on all lines during the U.S. President's Middle East visit were practically achieved at the expense of Egypt and to the detriment of the Arabs' interests.

Treaty in U.S. Interest Alone

LD211453 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Mar 79 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Unattributed "Rejoinder" from the "World Today" roundup prepared by V. Mkrtchyan: "In Washington, Of Course..."]

[Text] The U.S. press reports that the document crowning the separate deal between As-Sadat and Israel will be ceremoniously signed in Washington. The Egyptian leader has voiced the special hope that the ceremony will take place in the White House. A possible date for the "show" is also being cited--26 March, the day before international theater day.

Perhaps we may congratulate the participants in the talks on their opposite choice of venue. It emphasizes that the treaty has been elaborated, imposed and formulated by Washington in the interests of the United States and no one else. The treaty cannot be signed in New York: That is the seat of the United Nations, whose resolutions it flouts.

The only incomprehensible thing is why three versions of the official text were needed--in English, Arabic and Hebrew. The first of these would be sufficient, and As-Sadat and Begin could be presented with copies.

Anti-Arab Tutelage

LD211630 Moscow TASS in English 1520 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 21, TASS--TASS political analyst Sergey Kulik writes:

The impudent statement by Israeli Prime Minister Begin that his country "will never return to the borders, which existed before 1967" and will, consequently, continue further the unlawful occupation of the Arab territories, is assessed by many political observers as a direct outcome of the latest separate deal between Cairo and Tel Aviv. The deal concluded under U.S. tutelage practically gives Israel a free hand for the exercise of its annexionist policy towards the other Arab states, for depriving 3.5 million Palestinians of their legitimate rights to create their own state, for a systematic persecution and extermination of the Arab people of Palestine.

It is also noteworthy that the creation of "peace American style" in the Middle East is accompanied with a further arms race in that area. In so doing, while continuing arms supplies to Tel Aviv on a greater scale than to Cairo, the USA places stakes on turning Israel into its own stronghold against the Arab world, while Egypt is assigned the unenviable role of policeman for the suppression of local conflicts. The realization of the plans stemming from the "second Camp David" must, according to the design of its authors, split the Arab countries, consolidate the withdrawal of Egypt from the united front of struggle against Israel and thus facilitated the implementation of the imperialist plans of the United States in the Middle East.

The U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT had admitted in this connection that the U.S. administration views the separate deal between Tel Aviv and Cairo as a "spring-board" for creating "considerable American presence" in the region covering not only Israel and Egypt, but also all the oil-rich states of the Arab world. One cannot help but draw the conclusion that the deal, that is the anti-Arab in its essence, is beneficial for Israel. It distracts from the settlement of the Palestinian issue and other key issues of Middle East settlement, and therefore cannot lead to lasting peace. The "second Camp David" instigates arms race in the Middle East and creates prerequisites for the permanent military presence of the United States, which is conducive to destabilisation not only in that area, but also all over the world.

Genuine peace, stability and security in the Middle East can be ensured only on condition of attainment of an all-embracing settlement, including Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and giving the Arab Palestinian people the right to create its own independent Arab state.

The anti-Arab deal concluded by As-Sadat with Tel Aviv under Washington's tutelage originates new problems in the Middle East and is fraught with a threat to other states of the Middle East region, jeopardises universal peace.

'People's Fate in Own Hands'

LD220007 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, 26 March has been set as the date for signing the separate Egyptian-Israeli treaty in Washington.

Our observer, Vladimir Belyakov, said in this connection that the terms of this treaty were against the Arabs so much so that not a single Arab state supported them. Moreover, the demand is growing in the Arab world for adoption of economic and political sanctions against Egypt in accordance with the resolutions of the Arab summit conference in Baghdad. The Arab states participating in the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, as well as Iraq, Jordan and Kuwait, declared their determination to carry out the Baghdad conference resolutions to the end in the event of the separate Egyptian-Israeli collusion. It goes without saying that the deal which is expected to be concluded should arouse sharp reaction by the Palestinians in particular. Israeli leaders clearly declare that the aim of the deal is to prevent establishment of an independent Palestinian state and perpetuate the occupation of the Palestinian territories in the West Bank and the Gaza Sector.

The Soviet delegate to the Security Council, Oleg Troyanovskiy, said in a speech a few days ago that the implementation of these plans threatens the existence of the Palestinian people themselves. It is for this reason that the anticipated deal is causing a storm of wrath and indignation in the territories occupied by the Zionists. Mass demonstrations and strikes have been going on in these territories during the past few days. In spite of harsh repressive measures by occupation authorities and in spite of casualities, the Palestinian masses are not ceasing their struggle. The leaders of public and trade unions in the West Bank adopted a statement at their meeting in Nablus firmly rejecting the separate Egyptian-Israeli deal to be concluded under the U.S. auspices as well as the steps of the administrative self-rule for the occupied Arab territories. The statement said that the Palestinian Arab people will continue their struggle under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, namely the PLO, for their legitimate right to self-determination and the establishment of the independent state. The participants in the meeting addressed cables to the leaders of the Arab states demanding the immediate expulsion of As-Sadat's regime from the Arab League since he betrayed the cause of the Arab nation and moved to its enemies' rank.

Protest meetings and demonstrations are being staged in all areas where Palestinians reside. This movement is tremendously important. American imperialism, which is trying to impose the unjust peace on the Middle East, relies in its policy on its Arab allies. Iran, however, shows the importance of wagering on local reaction. The events in Iran proved once more that people's fate is in their own hands and no one can impose his will on them for long.

Israeli Stand Unchanged

LD220716 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Commentary by Aleksey Zlatorunskiy entitled "Begin Dot's the I's"]

[Text] Reports from Washington say that the official signing ceremony of the separate Egyptian-Israeli treaty will take place in the American capital on Monday at 1900 GMT. The White House refused to give information to the press on the forthcoming ceremony on the pretext that the Israeli Knesset has not yet endorsed the text of the draft separate agreement. By the way, very interesting things are happening in the Knesset.

When reviewing the main aims of the deal during the heated debates, Israeli Prime Minister Begin said that a Palestinian state will never be formed because we will not allow it, that Jerusalem will never be divided and that Israel will not return to the pre-June 1967 borders.

As to the granting of autonomy to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Israeli prime minister said that the point in question here is about personal rights of the Arabs residing in this region and not about the land itself which will not under any circumstances be returned to the Palestinians.

In fact Begin did not say anything new at all. What happened was that he presented the basis of Israel's policy in the Middle East very clearly--the policy Israel has been pursuing for several years and based on occupation and exploration of Arab territories and persecution of Arabs, chiefly Palestinians. Just now, when official Washington and Cairo and American and Egyptian propaganda are exerting feverish efforts to portray Israel as performing the role of one who cherishes peace and seeks a just peace with the Arabs, Begin's statements have been exposed as flagrant mockery.

The claims about the peace-cherishing policy of Israel have created the basic idea in the speeches of President as-Sadat, in his messages to the heads of a number of Arab states and in his talks with leading officials of foreign governments. Suddenly this fiasco: Wolf in sheep clothing, but howls like wolves. There is nothing that As-Sadat can do after having found himself in this unenviable situation. He is reaping the fruits of his capitulatory policy. But in Washington can they assume that the ceremony presently being prepared and on which the American administration is pinning great hopes will be gloomy? Yes. They were aware of this in America. At any rate they knew that Israel's policy was firm but they only feared the reaction of the Arabs.

This was made sufficiently clear a few days ago by Cyrus Vance on TV. Replying to a correspondent's question about the Middle East, he said it is assumed that certain difficulties will appear in the very near future. Vance based this on the reaction of the participants in the Baghdad Arab summit meeting. But it is obvious that this was not the only thing that annoyed the American secretary of state. He knows full well that all the talk about the cornerstone of peace in the Middle East, about the historic mission of President as-Sadat and other empty expressions are aimed at deceiving and pacifying angry world public opinion because the enemy attains his objectives under the distinct protection of Washington.

As for those who can keep a secret, As-Sadat wants to put his signature on the document which asserts that the Palestinians will never obtain the right to establish their own independent state and that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip would remain under Israel's control. This means the confirmation of legality in favor of the enemy in his expansionist policy. This has nothing in common with peace and peaceful settlement. The document which is being prepared will lead to new wars. Arab reaction point out that they will never tolerate this state of affairs and do not recognize the deal for which the United States shoulders the prime responsibility for preparing along with the ruling quarters in Cairo.

Egyptian Reaction to Begin

LD211946 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program presented by Aleksandr Timoshkin]

[Text] Official Cairo replied immediately to the statement of the Israeli prime minister yesterday in which he categorically denied the claims made by the Egyptian leadership concerning the contents and direction of the separate treaty.

We recall that Begin said that Israel would never return to the June 1967 borders, would not allow the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, would keep unified Jerusalem as capital of Israel and would maintain control of the West Bank and Gaza forever. What did Mustafa Khalil, the Egyptian prime minister, to whom Begin addressed his statement before the Knesset, say? He said Begin's statement created new obstacles before the signing of the treaty. However, he immediately confirmed that Begin's statement would not delay the signing of the bilateral treaty on Monday, 26 March. Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian vice president, who is touring West European countries, said that Begin's statement could not weaken peace efforts in the Middle East.

What attracts attention in these Egyptian statements and in official Egyptian propaganda is the complete lack of influence in Begin's statements. In other words, Begin is mentioned and replies are made to his statement but a deaf ear is turned to the essence of his statement. What is more, official Cairo is forcefully trying again and again to convince its people and the Arabs that the Egyptian leadership insists on Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab lands and recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinians. However, there is not even the slightest hint of this in the text of the separate Egyptian-Israeli treaty and its addenda. Thus, the Egyptian leadership continues to hope to conceal from its people and all the Arabs the clear fact that official Cairo has completely and unconditionally capitulated before the Israeli aggressors and their protector, U.S. imperialism.

LEBANESE LIFE VIEWED IN CONTEXT OF MIDEAST DEVELOPMENTS

LD221103 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 79 p 4 LD

[Special correspondents K. Geyvandov, N. Prozhogin report: "Lebanon: Life Under Fire"--names in parentheses as transliterated]

[Text] On entering An-Nabatiyah we had to brake sharply: Around a curve the road had been damaged by an artillery shell. For several meters around the crater the asphalt and the walls of nearby buildings were pockmarked by debris. In the city's center many buildings have been completely destroyed. People wandered among the ruins, looking for the remains of their belongings beneath the wreckage. A new two-story apartment building stood as if beheaded: Its roof had been torn off. The front wall of another had collapsed, and it looked like a model--still warm--of peacetime life, with closets, beds and tables in rooms open to the wind and to strangers' eyes. Nine out of ten residents had left An-Nabatiyah, which was shelled by heavy guns on the previous day, adding to the crowds of refugees in the north of the country.

The fate of An-Nabatiyah is one example of the consequences of Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon. It is about 20 km from the city to the Israeli border. But the aggressor's forces are even closer.

In March 1978 Israel invaded Lebanon and occupied the border zone to a depth of 8-12 km, practically up to the Litani River. In June of the same year the Israelis, withdrawing their troops on the demand of the UN Security Council, handed this territory over to the control of armed formations of rightwing Christian parties. With Israeli help the latter are hindering the UN troops sent to take up positions between the Litani River and the border and preventing the restoration of the central Lebanese authorities' sovereignty. Tel Aviv's armed provocations and open acts of aggression against Lebanon have again been increased in connection with the U.S. forcing through of the signing of separate Israeli-Egyptian agreements.

Events in Lebanon show clearly how the forces of international imperialism and Zionism make use of internal reaction to suppress the national liberation struggle of Arab peoples and the Palestinian resistance movement, counting on imposing conditions for a "settlement" of the Near East crisis which suit the United States and Israel. In this respect the events which once served as the trigger for the civil war are also significant.

A bust of the progressive Lebanese figure (Maarufa Saad) has been set up on the main street of Sidon. A former mayor and parliamentary deputy, he was fatally wounded on 26 February 1975. Standing beside the monument, his son, (Mustafa Saad), relates:

"On that day a demonstration supporting striking fishermen was taking place in this street. The point is that the (Protein) company, one of whose bosses is C. Sham'un, the Maronite rightwing Christian and former Lebanese president, was planning to monopolize fishing and fish processing. However, the strike and demonstration were not confined to defending the working people's vital rights. They took place under national liberation, anti-imperialist slogans. At the instigation of rightwing circles troops were sent in to disperse the demonstration. When the column headed by my father approached the town hall, a shot rang out...."

Our conversation continued on the premises of the local division of the National Patriotic Forces, headed in Sidon by (Mustafa Saad). Representatives of the Communist Party, the Progressive Socialist Party, the Organization of Independent Nasirites and other democratic parties and groupings were gathered. As we took our places at the table, the roar of low-flying jets was heard. The latest psychological attack was being carried out by the Israeli military clique, which is trying to intimidate the civilian population.

Lebanon's domestic political crisis, our interlocutors said, took on the nature of a protracted, bloody war. It was only stopped in November 1976, when Arab peace-keeping forces were brought into Lebanon. Their main contingent was made up of Syrian troops, which even now number about 30,000 officers and men. Wherever you go in the country, even under the ancient Roman columns of Baalbek, you see the Arab forces' control points. Military posts, tanks and armored carriers at the roadside recall that the Lebanese crisis is far from having been overcome.

Indeed, the rightwing Christian parties, united in the so-called "Lebanese Front" and virtually in alliance with Israel, have not laid down their arms. The most extremist elements among the rightwingers proclaim provocatively about driving all Palestinians from Lebanese territory, and others demand the elimination of the Palestinian resistance movement detachments. The ideas of the right meet with all-round support from imperialism and Zionism. It is no accident, we were told, that the situation in the country deteriorates every time the United States makes another attempt to implement the separate Egyptian-Israeli deal. Lebanon has become one of the main arenas in the struggle against the Palestinian resistance movement.

The PLO Army command point is located on the outskirts of the town. Armed sentries stand behind sandbags at the entrance to the building. The day was clear and warm and we were taken into the garden. Chairs were placed on a lawn among trees. Our feet sank a few centimeters into the soil, which was soft after rain and released a delicate smell into the air, mingled with the scent of spring grasses. We recalled the harsh life in the barracks of Palestinian refugee camps. There are more than 300,000 Palestinians in Lebanon. Many were born and grew up in exile. Their children are being born in exile. But the people's unbending will to defend the right to their national state, to their own land, is handed down from generation to generation.

Major (Alla), thickset and stocky with a broad smile on his face, answers our questions. He was born 35 years ago in Jerusalem. He left his homeland after the Israeli aggression in 1967. His relatives remained under the occupation. His wife is from a refugee family who left Palestine back in 1948. What does she do? "The wife of a fighter must be a fighter...."

After the traditional cup of strong coffee, the major invites us to get into his jeep [verdekhod]. The rutted road rises across a stony plateau, past peasant homes destroyed in the war, and finally nestles against cliffs whose summit is crowned by the walls of a fortress built long ago by the crusaders.

Through the lancet windows of the medieval Beaufort Castle, which by some miracle has withstood the shelling and bombing, there is a view of the Litani river valley, of blue hills and a snow-covered mountain ridge beyond. Beyond that is Galilee. As if to break the spell of this marvelous panorama, the major says:

"The sun is hot, but the enemy is not asleep."

And sure enough, there is a column of trucks crawling like a line of beetles between the peaks. At a bend in the road, indistinguishable from here, windshields glint in the sunlight. It is Israeli forces moving up to the border.

Under the fortress archways we are introduced to the detachment's fighting men: "Soviet journalists." They respond with firm handshakes, smiles, and fists raised in combat greeting....

Several days later in Beirut we were chatting to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He said:

"At the beginning of the year, in reply to questions from America's TIME magazine, L.I. Brezhnev once again stated clearly and distinctly that it is by no means the Arab peoples' struggle for the return of the lands seized by Israel and for the right of the Palestinians to create their own state, indeed it is not the actions of those who support these just demands of the Arabs which contradict the relaxation of tension in the Near East region. It is those who side with the aggressor and encourage its expansionist aspirations who are acting against the interests of detente. The Palestinian people," 'Arafat continued, backing up his words with energetic, sweeping gestures, "value highly and will never forget the principled position of the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries which are giving us invaluable help in the struggle for our righteous cause. Victory will not come easily. But it will come, it is bound to come...."

It could appear to someone arriving in Beirut for the first time that the Lebanese capital is continuing its normal life in spite of the wounds inflicted by the fighting. The streets are as crowded as any large port city. But this animation seems artificial as soon as you remember that the port has been inactive for several years. The neon advertisements on stores and movie theaters go out early. Moreover, at any moment, night or day, you can be told that you must go on further either by transport or on foot. An invisible line divides the city into two isolated parts. The western sector is held by the fascist-type Phalangists. There is never a day when they do not provoke an exchange of fire or an artillery duel. Sometimes Beirut looks like a ghost town from early morning. Infrequent vehicles and even more infrequent pedestrians, hugging the walls, completely shuttered windows, closed doorways. This means that the inhabitants have cause to fear a new Israeli bandit attack or an onslaught from the rightists.

The life of the country as a whole follows this broken rhythm. Its complex domestic problems are exacerbated to the extreme by the imperialist policy of encouraging Israeli aggression. But where is the way out of the situation which has been created? The reply which we were given most often to this question was that Lebanon's problems are inseparable from an all-embracing settlement of the Near East crisis, in which insuring the rights of the Arab people of Palestine is of paramount importance.

This is why the separate Israeli-Egyptian combat inspired by the imperialist policy of encouraging the aggressor is met here, as everywhere in the Arab countries, with resolute condemnation. As for Lebanon itself, the country's national patriotic forces, cooperating with the progressive Arab regimes and the PLO, are struggling against the rightists' attempts to change the correlation of forces in favor of imperialism and reaction.

COMMENT ON IRAN SITUATION, KURDISTAN PROBLEMS

Call for Islamic Republic

LD220823 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[Correspondent A. Filippov report: "Preparing for the Referendum"]

[Text] Tehran, 19 March--The campaign to prepare for the nationwide referendum planned for 30 March on the country's future state system continues in Iran. Official propaganda organs are publishing statements by various organizations calling on Iranian citizens to support the formation of an Islamic Republic. They report that the Communist Party (Tudeh), which was illegal during the shah's regime, will also vote for an Islamic Republic.

Clashes Between Kurds, State

LD221055 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[Correspondent A. Filippov dispatch: "Clashes"]

[Text] Tehran, 20 March--According to reports on Iranian radio and in the local press, clashes have occurrred in northwest Iran between the Kurds living in those regions and subunits of government troops. About 170 people have been killed on both sides and there are many wounded. It is noted that the insurgents, who are seeking autonomy for the Kurdish population within the framework of the Iranian state, have seized army barracks and weapons and a television center and radio station. The government of M. Bazargan has described the insurgents' actions as a counterrevolutionary attack against the new regime. The situation in those regions remains tense.

Continued Fighting in Kurdistan

LD212223 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1636 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] New York, 21 March--News agencies report that despite the cease-fire agreement that has been reached heavy fighting broke out again today in the Iranian province of Kurdestan between the local Kurdish population and government troops.

Artillery is carrying out intensive shelling of insurgent positions in the main town, Sanandaj. The town's population has been forced to hide in houses.

A UPI correspondent reports that at least 500 people have been killed in 3 days of fighting. The Government of Iran has dispatched additional army subdivisions to Kurdistan. Helicopters are delivering ammunition and military equipment to the troops of the garrison in Sanandaj.

It was reported earlier that the insurgents captured a radio station in Sanandaj and urged the population to strive for autonomy, for respect of Kurdish national traditions and customs and for greater attention to their social and economic needs by the central authorities.

Ayatollah Taleqani, one of the religious leaders of the Iranian Shi'ites, flew out to Sanandaj today to acquaint himself with the situation. He is accompanied by Bani Sadn, one of Khomeyni's closest advisers.

Moscow in Persian Report

LD212200 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] News agencies report that in the city of Sanandaj and its surrounding areas there were skirmishes between the local population and government forces. The participants in the uprising captured the radio station and exhorted the Kurds to struggle for self-rule and respect for their habits and national customs. Many people were sacrificed in these skirmishes. AFP reported that last evening on the basis of arbitration by important Kurdish religious leaders agreement was reached on a cease-fire. According to these sources, Sanandaj radio station is still in the hands of those taking part in the uprising.

USSR 'BY NO MEANS INDIFFERENT' TO DEVELOPING MIDEAST SCENARIO

LD211213 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 20 Mar 79 p 3 LD

[Article by N. Morozov: "The Near East: The U.S. 'Power Approach'"]

[Text] By making concessions to Washington and Tel Aviv As-Sadat is not only postponing a Near East settlement but, in replacing it with a military-political alliance between Israel and Egypt, is contributing to the creation of new dangerous hotbeds of international tension--this is the world public's assessment of President Carter's "historic success," or rather his pressure to expedite a separate deal between Egypt and Israel. And more and more details are emerging of the plot devised in defiance of the peoples' interests.

J. Carter obtained Israel's agreement to the American settlement plan before his Near East trip. He was also confident that As-Sadat could be prevailed upon. In one thing alone did Cairo and Tel Aviv display enviable firmness--they would like to get a bit more out of Washington.

This applies above all to American weapons deliveries to Egypt (along with even bigger deliveries to Israel) and also the allocation to Egypt of the role of Near East policeman formerly filled by the shah's Iran. The participants in the deal examined questions relating to "military security" in the Near and Middle East and the coordination of actions.

U.S. vital interests in the Persian Gulf "must be protected even if this requires the use of military might or a military presence," U.S. Energy Secretary J. Schlesinger said. Similar statements were also made by U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown who, during his trip to this area, petitioned for the deployment of special American strike forces.

The U.S. and Israeli defense ministers are now discussing the "military aspects" of the deal at talks in Washington. Commentators point out that Israel will we become even more involved in the system for protecting the West's interests in this area. And the "list" of new military deliveries ($4 billion) is considerable--it includes the most up-to-date equipment. The new policemen are demanding new nightsticks.

The alarming news which has recently been coming in from the Near East countries indicates that As-Sadat has already embarked on the performance of these policing functions with Israel. Egyptian interventionists have already been dispatched to the Sultanate of Oman to suppress the national liberation movement. Cairo has also said it is prepared to send soldiers to North Yemen. Hints have appeared in the Western press to the effect that Cairo will not remain on the sidelines if the "development of events in Iran goes too far"...

The plans for stepping up the American military presence in the Near East include the problems of handing over to the United States the air force base at Ezziyon and the Sharm ash-Shaykh naval base on the Israeli-occupied Sinai Peninsula; the creation of a new 50-vessel U.S. fleet in the Indian Ocean; the expansion of the Anglo-American base on Diego Garcia Island; and the delivery of additional arms to certain Near East countries from reserves created as a result of Iran's refusal to buy American military equipment. According to a NEWSWEEK magazine report, during his February visit to Cairo Brown obtained As-Sadat's permission for American nuclear-powered warships to pass through the Suez Canal, and at the beginning of March an American destroyer and two patrol vessels negotiated the canal from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean.

Also interesting is the haste with which President Carter used emergency powers, bypassed Congress and consented to the delivery of modern weapons to North Yemen worth $400 million. And this was at the very moment when the Arab League had adopted a mediation decision to promote the settlement of the border conflict between the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY]. In the wake of the military equipment the Americans are planning to send about 300 advisers to train the North Yemenis to handle these modern weapons. The American aircraft carrier Constellation accompanied by an escort is heading for the shores of the Arabian Peninsula and two aircraft with the AWACS electronic reconnaissance system have been transferred to Saudi Arabia. The New York TIMES has openly written that the Yemeni conflict is a "proving ground" for the Carter administration's "new policy" in the Near East. For the first time since the Vietnam war the United States has embarked on overt military interference in Near East affairs, utilizing an unimportant border conflict that had been extinguished by the Arab countries themselves. The first step toward an American military presence in that region has now been taken. It will be followed by others. As Congressman Aspin declared, the Pentagon does not rule out sending American troops to North Yemen "to protect the U.S. weapons coming in at the airfields." It is not difficult to see that all this is very reminiscent of the start of the American interference in Vietnam's affairs!

The plans for increasing U.S. military presence in the Near East are encountering growing resistance in Arab countries. During his U.S. visit Saudi Minister Fayiz al-Badr declared that Saudi Arabia does not want any military aid from the United States since it believes that "defense comes from within and not from outside", therefore Riyadh rejected the Americans' proposal for creating an American base on Saudi territory. Y. 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has called for an intensification of the struggle against creation of a U.S.-sponsored Egyptian-Israeli pact hostile to the Arab peoples and aimed at protecting the interests of the United States and its Western allies. Another Palestinian leader--G. Habash--has declared that Carter's visit and everything connected with it flouts "the dignity of the entire Arab nation."

The New York TIMES states: "Brzezinski's attempts to obtain support for the Egyptian-Israeli treaty from Saudi Arabia have ended in failure." The Washington POST reports that the king of Jordan informed Brzezinski of his intention to support the actions of the Arab majority demanding economic and political sanctions against Egypt.

This reaction by the Arab world to the new U.S. plans is perfectly natural. The Carter administration's "power approach" to the Near East and the overt threats on the pretext of "safeguarding Near East oil supplies" pose an obvious threat to the Arab peoples' independence and the threat of a return to grim colonialist times. The new Cairo-Tel Aviv military-political axis based on a U.S. military presence is aimed at eliminating Palestinian resistance, assailing national liberation movements and imposing U.S. imperialist interests on the Arab world.

It is appropriate to recall here that the Near East which is today the arena of U.S. diplomatic and military activity is in the geographical vicinity of the Soviet Union, which is by no means indifferent to the way in which the situation develops in that region or to what trends--peace or war--dominate the political situation there. This ought also to be remembered by Washington where some people continue to believe that "the line of U.S. defense and security" passes through the Near East region.

'IMPERIALIST CIRCLES' DISPLEASED AT TWO YEMENS' RECONCILIATION

LD211058 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0130 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Vsevolod Shishkovskiy]

[Text] As the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY reports, the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen have completed the withdrawal of their forces to the positions they occupied before the armed conflicts that started on 23 February. The report points out that complete calm has been restored on the border between the two countries and that it will be reopened in the next few days. Air traffic between San'a' and Aden will also be resumed.

It should be stressed that the normalization of relations between the Arab countries was achieved as a result of effective mediation by a special committee of the Arab League. This development, judging from everything, is not particularly to the liking of certain imperialist circles. Thus as UPI reports, the United States has already begun deliveries to North Yemen of various arms having a total value of $400 million. There are already several hundred U.S. military advisers in the country. Thus the possibility of new attempts to exacerbate the situation and heighten tension in the area cannot be ruled out. This, U.S. strategists think, would be advantageous to Washington.

U.S. CONNECTED WITH RHODESIAN SLUSH FUND

LD220500 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Igor Dmitriyev commentary]

[Text] On Tuesday former South African Information Secretary Eschel Rhoodie was reported to be about to release 41 government documents and tapes detailing secret payments to influential Western figures for their support of South Africa. We bring you comment by our observer Igor Dmitriyev.

Eschel Rhoodie was one of the bosses of the now defunct Information Department which, as it has turned out, had a special slush fund set up for various propaganda and influence-buying projects. Between 1973 and 1978 the department spent $74 million on those projects. As many South African officials admit today, this Information Department was in fact a second Foreign Ministry, and Eschel Rhoodie, being a key figure there, established direct contacts with United States senators, British politicians, newspaper publishers and influential businessmen. When it changes hands, money is known to leave a trace in one form or another. In this particular case it traced to the alleged 41 government tapes, soon to be released and described by Rhoodie as dynamite that might blow into pieces the records and reputations of some American and British politicians.

The RAND DAILY MAIL has reported from New York that Senator Daniel Moynihan was among a number of politicians who had received some cash from South African lobbyists in recent years. Bribery scandals are nothing new in Washington. Several years ago, the Ethics Commission of the House of Representatives was busy investigating influence-buying by South Korea. Almost 100 congressmen were said to have accepted cash or expensive gifts from the South Korean CIA people, in exchange for political favors. Nobody was prosecuted, not counting a couple of congressmen who were wise enough to find a decent excuse to quietly step down. There were other scandals, too, although seemingly minor in comparison. Thus, Bert Lance, President Carter's personal friend and financial adviser, had to resign after his somewhat shady bank operations had become public knowledge. Then it became known that many White House staff members were given to narcotics, and that their drug habits had been encouraged by Peter Bourne, another presidential assistant. He split his time between caring for public health and writing bogus prescriptions for the White House staff to obtain narcotics. These unpleasant disclosures were written off as episodes and a poor choice of advisers by the President--or so the American press said--and were not held against the administration for a considerable time. So Washington continued with its publicity fireworks about conducting an open and honest home and foreign policy. And now it looks like another major political storm is brewing.

It has yet to be seen how many of the 41 tapes that are in possession of the former South African information secretary will be released or whether they will be released at all. Too much is at stake, both for the United States and Great Britain. For years they had done all they could to torpedo United Nations-proposed sanctions against racist South Africa. They even invented a convenient theory for that. They claimed that the best way to rehabilitate a criminal was to make him an equal part of the community, not to reject him. Washington and London said they did not approve of apartheid, one of the ugliest forms of racial discrimination. They were simply rehabilitating the criminal by trading with South Africa and helping it create a powerful military machine that is a threat to many African countries. They were rehabilitating South Africa in exchange for huge profits that American and British companies received by exploiting cheap labor of black South Africans.

I wonder how much of this rehabilitation talk was paid from the slush fund set up under the South African Information Department.

USSR ECONOMIC AID TO CONGO CITED ON ANNIVERSARY OF TIES

LD220837 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Mar 79 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[TASS correspondent B. Filippov dispatch: "Fruitful Cooperation"]

[Text] Brazzaville, 16 March--Former Congolese head of state Marien N'gouabi called the Soviet Union a true ally of the People's Republic of the Congo in the anti-imperialist struggle and the building of a new society. Many people here are mentioning the correctness of these words today, as the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the People's Republic of the Congo is being celebrated.

The economic front has become one of the main fronts in this struggle. The country lacked national cadres, and to help the young republic the Soviet Union trained about 1,000 specialists in its VUZes. Amost as many young Congolese men and women are studying or undergoing industrial training in the USSR now. Where are those people working? The mining enterprise in Mfouati, created jointly by the People's Republic of the Congo and the USSR, is called the first born of Congolese industry. Soon, when the period of assimilation of production capacities is completed, Mfouati will produce 30,000 tons of lead-zinc concentrate every year. This enterprise is rightly regarded as the flagship of the Congo's economy and the basis of the state sector of the republic, which has chosen the path of noncapitalist development.

Bilateral relations are developing successfully in the sphere of economic and technical cooperation and in other sectors. That cooperation has to its credit the (Sunda-Kakamoyeka) gold mining enterprise, the creation of a power and water supply system for the fertile Koukouya Plateau, with a view to its agricultural development, and Central Africa's largest veterinary research laboratory, which plays an important part in organizing a sector of the national economy which is completely new to the People's Republic of the Congo--livestock-raising.

Soviet aircraft fly many internal routes in the People's Republic of the Congo. The Cosmos hotel, the party school and the medical institution buildings which adorn Brazzaville are also the result of Soviet-Congolese cooperation. The volume of mutually advantageous trade is growing rapidly.

The celebration of the jubilee of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the People's Republic of the Congo, which have successfully stood the test of time, has coincided here with preparation for an important event in the republic's life--the third, extraordinary, congress of the Congolese Labor Party. It is developing under slogans of the people's cohesion around the Congolese Labor Party, the intensification of the revolution, the consolidation of economic independence and the further development of mutually advantageous ties with the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries.

GROMYKO EXCHANGES MESSAGES WITH CONGO BRAZZAVILLE COUNTERPART

LD220813 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 79 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Text] A.A. Gromyko, USSR minister of foreign affairs, and T. Obenga, People's Republic of the Congo minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, exchanged congratulatory telegrams on the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the Congo.

The ministers' telegrams express confidence that the relations of constant friendship and multifaceted cooperation existing between the Soviet Union and the Congo will continue to strengthen and develop for the good of the two countries' peoples and in the interests of peace and progress and of strengthening international security.

USSR TU OFFICIAL CONFERS WITH ANGOLAN LABOR PARTY AIDE

LD211421 Moscow TRUD in Russian 14 Mar 79 p 3 LD

[Text] In the Palace of Labor on 12 March AUCCTU Deputy Chairman V.I. Prokhorov received Pascal Luvualo, member of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, member of the Labor Party Central Committee Politburo and secretary general of the National Association of Angolan Working People, who arrived in Moscow.

During the talks, which took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and comradely mutual understanding, the trade union leaders of the USSR and the People's Republic of Angola exchanged information on current work and the main directions in the activities of the two countries' trade union organizations and discussed ways to further develop bilateral friendly relations and cooperation. Also, urgent problems of the modern international trade union movement were discussed.

Participating in the talks were Carlos Antonio Fernandes, ambassador of the People's Republic of Angola to the USSR; AUCCTU Secretary P.T. Pimenov, and V. Ye. Mozhayev, chief of the AUCCTU International Section. P. Luvualo flew home on 13 March.

COMMENTATOR ASSESSES BENEFITS OF SOVIET-CUBAN RELATIONS

LD220819 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[Article by Valentin Sharov under the rubric "Commentator's Column": "Dynamic Development"]

[Text] Economic collaboration between the Soviet Union and Cuba is growing. The ninth session of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic and Scientific and Technical Cooperation ended the other day. It summed up results of the implementation of Soviet-Cuban agreements over the first 3 years of the current 5-year plan and set out the concrete tasks for further developing bilateral ties in 1979-1980 and main directions of collaboration in the forthcoming 5-year plan.

Soviet-Cuban relations have risen to a high level in the economic sphere. Trade between the two countries has reached R4 billion per year. In the current 5-year plan over 40 industrial projects and installations have already been constructed in Cuba with Soviet assistance.

Relations between the USSR and fraternal Cuba are a striking example of cooperation based on mutual respect, equality and complete trust and on the lofty principles of socialist internationalism. This cooperation is developing along an ascending line--from the simplest forms, such as trade, to production cooperation and the coordination of national economic plans. It is worth noting that ties are currently being organized on a long-term basis.

The new Cuba's entire history is an impressive demonstration of the great strength of the socialist community countries' solidarity. Neither acts of direct military intervention nor economic blockade by imperialism could hinder the progress of the Cuban revolution. Relying on the support of friends, the republic's people have made great economic and cultural achievements.

Cuba, which joined CEMA in 1972, is becoming more and more involved in multilateral cooperation among the fraternal states and in the system of international socialist division of labor. It has become a major sugar supplier, it is intensively developing citrus fruit production and is participating in implementing the cooperation program in computer technology. The development of the Cuban nickel industry is an example of the effective pooling of the fraternal states' efforts. When modernization of existing plants and construction of new plants are finished, the republic will produce around one-fourth of the world's nickel.

Cuba is confidently building a new society in the family of the fraternal socialist community peoples.

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON NONALINED CONFERENCE

LD212214 Moscow TASS in English 2041 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 21, TASS--"All the conditions necessary for the success of the conference are being provided in Havana", said Foreign Minister of the Cuban Republic Isidoro Malmierca in reply to a question from an IZVESTIYA correspondent in Havana about preparations for the 6th conference of the heads of state and government of non-aligned countries.

"We have done everything possible," the minister noted, "for including practically all participants of our movement in the preparatory work. We see this as an earnest of the success of the conference and facilitating the further consolidation and strengthening of our forces."

"In recent months the USA and its lackeys," Malmierca went on, "unfolded once again a fierce campaign of slandering Socialist Cuba, which was chosen as the venue of the 6th conference next September. This time thought-up accusations have been made, alleging that the holding of the conference in Havana may play some negative role for the entire movement. The USA President even went so far as to say that the forthcoming meeting in Havana, don't you see, will help to radicalize the movement, to deflect it from its proclaimed goals and subjugate it to the policy of the socialist countries."

"These and similar statements," the minister points out, "were echoed also in Beijing the clique of modern mandarins now in power began repeating them in every way. The Beijing 'ultra-revolutionaries' have turned in fact into mouthpieces of imperialist propaganda.

"The U.S. President spoke of the irrelevance of our participation in this movement because we have given fraternal internationalist assistance to African peoples in repelling imperialist aggressions. He was by no means abashed by the fact that the 5th conference of the heads of state and government in Colombo, which elected Havana for the next forum, welcomed our cooperation with Angola in repelling the invasion by the South African racists and reactionary forces of other countries in an attempt to strangle the Angolan revolution, to detract it from its chosen path. By all our activities we underline that for us both the preparations and the conference itself provide an opportunity to rally the forces of the entire movement still closer together, to make it more powerful in order that the non-aligned countries should play a more important role in the solution of major international problems."

"A number of socialist countries--Cuba, Vietnam, Laos, the KPDR and Yugoslavia, do participate in the non-aligned movement.

"But if you speak of China, which claims participation in the movement, we are well aware of the reason for which it needs this. The Chinese leaders have been long parroting foreign voices. At present they appear in the role of a Trojan horse of imperialism, with the aim of splitting the non-alignment movement and obstructing its development. They are joining the governments that are acting against us."

DOMINICAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS ENDS

LD201840 Moscow TASS in English 1753 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] New York, March 20, TASS--The Second Congress of the Dominican Communist Party (DCP) ended in Santo Domingo. It adopted the party's rules and a program which determine the role and place of the DCP in the world communist and working class movement, and ways of the party's struggle for socialism. The congress's resolutions give a high appraisal of the activities of the Soviet Union and other states of the socialist community for the strengthening of peace and security of peoples, condemn the aggressive designs of U.S. imperialism and, in particular, plans for the creation of the neutron bomb and other types of weapons of mass destruction. The delegates wrathfully condemned China's criminal aggression against the heroic Vietnamese people. The congress elected a Central Committee and other leading bodies of the party. Narciso Isa Conde was re-elected the DCP general secretary.

CPSU RESOLUTION ON 5-YEAR PLAN ANNIVERSARY PUBLISHED

LD220805 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 79 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report: "At the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has adopted a resolution "On the 50th Anniversary of the First 5-Year Plan for the Development of the USSR National Economy."

At the end of April 1979 it will have been 50 years since the First 5-Year Plan for the development of the USSR national economy was approved by the 16th conference of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks and then ratified in May by the 5th All-Union Congress of Soviets.

Fifty years ago, under the leadership of the Communist Party, the heroic struggle of the Soviet people to implement the plans of the first 5-year period, which has occupied an outstanding place in the realization of the Leninist program to construct socialism in the Soviet Union, got underway.

It was the first comprehensive plan which furnished a scientific foundation for the rates and proportions of the country's economic and social development. The system of plans is the creation of socialism, it is an expression of its fundamental advantages. The foundations of this system were determined by the great Vladimar Ilich Lenin, under whose leadership the first long-term national economy plan in the world--the Goelro plan--was worked out.

The First 5-Year Plan showed the great advantages of the socialist system compared to capitalism. It established principally new and consistently democratic forms and methods of national economic management, awakening among the multimillion masses of the working people great energy and creativity which became embodied in the socialist competition.

The First 5-Year Plan constituted a symbol of the revolutionary transformation of reality, high rates of economic growth, scientific planning and the labor upsurge of the people. Its implementation insured the creation of a strong material basis for construction of a socialist society.

The successful fulfillment of the First 5-Year Plan frustrated the imperialist reaction's designs to economically strangle the land of October. The First 5-Year Plan became the forefather of a remarkable pleiad of Soviet 5-year plans which lifted our country from technical and economic backwardness to the pinnacles of economic, scientific-technological and social progress.

Each plan had a personality of its own, reflecting the unique features of the time; each was a stage along the path of achieving concrete socioeconomic goals. However, all of them were united and are united by the indissolubility of the common task: through the stages of the 5-year plans toward socialism and communism.

The world historic victory of the Soviet people, the construction in the USSR of an advanced socialist society, a society of true democracy, guaranteeing the exercise of fundamental human rights, a society in which working people were highly organized, ideologically motivated and conscious, was a result of the implementation of economic and social transformations.

A new man--an active builder of communism, a patriot and an internationalist--was brought up by the party. These tremendous achievements have been enshrined in the new USSR Constitution. Today the Soviet people devote their strength, knowledge and enthusiasm to fulfilling the tasks of the 10th 5-Year Plan, the anniversary plan, a concrete action program in the field of economic construction and social progress, determined by the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress.

Planning the development of the national economy is one of the most important scientific and social gains of the 20th century and of the revolutionary practice of transforming social life. Vladimar Ilich Lenin saw planning as the core of national economy management. He stressed that it was impossible to work without having a plan for a long period ahead, designed to score a serious success. He pointed out the necessity of having a long-term, unified economic plan on a nationwide scale. (V.I. Lenin. Complete Collected Works Vol 42 p 153-154)

The First 5-Year Plan, drawn up according to the directives of the 15th party congress, was just such a leading economic and political document, a law for all links of productive activity. The outstanding historic importance of the First 5-Year Plan is also that it initiated the use of 5-year quotas as the main form of economic planning and transformed them into a great organizing and mobilizing force of communist construction, proving in practice the superiority of socialist methods of economic management over capitalist ones. As noted at the CPSU Central Committee November 1978 Plenum, in 50 years an enormous, and in many respects unique, experience of planned economic development and of an integrated approach to solving economic, scientific, technical and social problems has been amassed. On the basis of this, draft plans ar now being prepared for the 11th 5-Year Plan and for the long-term outlook up to 1990. These are intended to become a major milestone on the path of creating a communist society.

Now the task is to raise onto a qualitatively new level all our planning work and the actual content of planning, to comprehend more deeply the economic problems engendered by life; and with complete responsibility and initiative to conduct the creative search for optimal ways of solving them. Our plans have become the main tool for putting into practice the economic policy of the Communist Party. They are implemented in the name of strengthening and developing the socialist system and consistently building up productive forces and perfecting social relations, of systematically raising the material and cultural well-being of the people. In embarking on long-term planning in accordance with the 5-year plans, the Soviet state has concentrated its strength and resources on solving the historically important task set by the Communist Party: In the shortest time, to build socialism and place the USSR among the most industrially developed countries of the world. In the incomplete three prewar 5-year plans, our people performed the heroic feat of industrializing the country and collectivizing its agriculture, securing its defense capability and laying a firm material-technical base for our victory in the Great Patriotic War. The epic story of the postwar revival and development of the national economy multiplied that feat. The mighty economic and scientific-technical potential of mature socialism was created. The volume of industrial production in our country now exceeds the 1928 level by 128 times. On the eve of the First 5-Year Plan, the country had 24 million scattered, primitively-equipped peasant farms. At the present time, the agriculture of the USSR represents a large, mechanized branch of production, in which the processes of specialization and concentration, on the basis of interfarm cooperation and agroindustrial integration, are actively underway.

The First 5-Year Plan opened up the widest scope for implementing the cultural revolution. In the years of the 5-year plan, huge successes were achieved in wiping out illiteracy, providing universal primary education, creating an advanced network of general education schools and schools for factory and plant training, libraries, workers faculties, technical colleges, higher education establishments, scientific and cultural educational institutions. Without these achievements, the present upsurge of Soviet science and culture, which march in the vanguard of world scientific-technical progress and world culture, would have been impossible. Today we are implementing full secondary education for the young. One scientific worker in four and one doctor in three on our planet is a citizen of the land of the soviets. Soviet man was the first in the world to emerge into the vastness of space. The 5-year plans have helped equalize the levels of economic and social development of all the union and autonomous republics, their general upsurge and prosperity in the economy, education and culture.

In the graphic expression of Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, our 5-year plans are the Leninist friendship of the nations translated into the language of economics. The history of the Soviet 5-year plans is the history of the creation of powerful productive forces in all the USSR republics and the creation of a working class, qualified cadres in all the branches of the economy and sections of state administration, in science and culture. The contemporary USSR economy is a huge, unified national economic complex and the economy of each republic is an inseparable part of this all-union complex.

The Soviet 5-year plans are not merely plans for economic construction but also of social progress. They promote the achievement of the higher goals of socialist social production and the most complete satisfaction of the people's material and spiritual needs. The mutual link between the economic and social programs of the 5-year plans is intensifying. Among the main tasks, the party directives are being realized in the improvement of all aspects of Soviet people's life. Making use of the advantage of centralized planning, in the First 5-Year Plan the socialist society resolved such a major social problem as the liquidation of unemployment, which continues to cause suffering to tens of millions of workers in capitalist countries and with which the exploitative system is not capable of dealing. Soviet people are the masters of their country and their fate. From 5-year plan to 5-year plan, the real incomes of the population, the payments and benefits from social funds, and the retail trade turnover of state and cooperative trade are all growing. Public education and health care enjoy continuous development. The work and living conditions of Soviet people are improving. One of the major social problems, housing, is being resolved successfully. The Soviet person's right to housing has been raised to the leval of a constitutional norm. About 110 million square meters of housing are handed over for occupation every year in the country. Some 11 million citizens move into new accommodations or improve their living conditions. For half a century apartment rent has been unchanged. The continued growth of material well-being is insured as is the flourishing of the spiritual life of all the nations in the homeland of October in the 10th 5-Year Plan period, the social program of which completely corresponds to the party's course directed toward undeviatingly raising the working people's welfare.

The revolutionary transformation of reality and the change of the social nature of work have brought to life such a new social phenomenon as socialist competition, an attitude of labor rivalry and comradely mutual aid engendered by the masses' historical creativity and scientifically organized by the Communist Party. Socialist competition and the 5-year plans are inseparably linked together. [paragraph continues]

Fifty years ago the 16th party conference adopted an address to all workers and all working peasants of the Soviet Union on the launching of mass socialist competition. Our competition has developed from the spark of the great initiative of the first communist subbotniks, the 60th anniversary of which is also being marked this year, and from the shock workers of the socialist construction sites, the shock brigades of the first 5-year plan and the first augmented plans.

This was further displayed in the labor feats of the heroes of the prewar 5-year plan periods: Stakhanov and Busygin, Demchenko and Krivonos, Angelina and the Vinogradovs and the thousands who took from them the baton of labor glory--Gaganova and Mamay, Zlobin and Kulikova, Smirnov and Murzenko, Gitalov and Klepikov, and many others. Today they are embodied in the mass movement of millions of workers for improving the efficiency and quality of work.

The homeland highly appreciated the creative achievements of the participants in the current stage of the competition. Honor and glory to those in the forefront of communist construction. In conditions of mature socialism, competition has become a mighty motive force not only of economic but also of social progress, of spiritual and moral flourishing of the Soviet society.

The movement for a communist attitude toward work is unfurling and drawing into its creative stream ever new millions of working people. It is instilling in them lofty consciousness and standards, giving them access to active participation in the management of the affairs of society and state.

The enormous experience in the planned development of the national economy accumulated by the Soviet Union has received worldwide recognition. It has been made available to many other states. The cooperation and socialist economic integration of the CEMA member-countries on a planned basis is developing and deepening. The coordination of their national economic plans is a powerful instrument for maximum utilization of the possibilities and advantages of the international socialist division of labor. The cooperation of CEMA countries in planning is being constantly perfected and enriched.

Today the Soviet experience with planned economic management is ever more attracting the attention of developing countries. It has received recognition from many economists in capitalist states. This confirms the fact that the impressive results achieved by our homeland in all spheres of social development are justly connected with the planned management of society.

At present our country has reached an advanced level of development, the stage of mature socialism. It disposes of a powerful economy, enormous scientific-technical potential, politically mature and highly qualified cadres who have accumulated a wealth of experience in state construction. It possesses everything necessary for further advancement towards communism. The task today is to realize fully and with maximum efficiency the opportunities opened up by the advanced socialist society, its economic potential and everything of which our national economy disposes. And that depends on all of us Soviet people, on our level of organization, discipline and coordinated and efficient work. The elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet which took place on 4 March, and the entire election campaign demonstrated a further upsurge in the working people's creative activity and initiative in the struggle to implement the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the 10th 5-Year Plan. The monolithic unity of the Soviet people, their close cohesion in supporting the Communist Party, the Leninist CPSU Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo, with Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev at its head again manifested themselves with great force. The speech delivered by Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, at the pre-election meeting of working people of the capital's Baumanskiy constituency, was received with deep satisfaction by all our people. Soviet people unanimously support the policy of the party, the policy of creating communism and peace. This is the main, decisive condition of our victories.

The people's unanimous and firm support of the political course of our Leninist party, noted Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, is a reliable foundation for progress, a guarantee that the plans will be translated into life. They will be translated into life by the will of the party and the work of Soviet people and for the sake of their well-being and happiness.

The CPSU Central Committee decrees:

Taking into account the outstanding significance of the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the First 5-Year Plan for the development of the USSR national economy, to mark this portentous date widely, directing the organizational-political and ideological-educational work of party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations, of soviet and economic bodies toward further activation of the working people's creative energy with the aim of successfully realizing the tasks of the 10th 5-Year Plan, the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the powerful growth of the economic, scientific-technical and defense potential of our homeland, its culture and the well-being of Soviet people:

The Central Committees of Communist Parties of the union republics, kraykoms, and obkoms, the USSR Gosplan, ministries and departments, AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee are, in preparing and marking the glorious jubilee, to concentrate efforts of labor collectives which are participants in socialist competition on fulfilling and overfulfilling the planned targets for 1979 and the 5-year plan as a whole, on raising the efficiency and quality of work, on speeding up the pace of scientific-trchnical progress, on mobilizing untapped reserves in production, on the strict observance of economic measures for achieving high final results; to advertise the advantages of the planned socialist system of management over the capitalist system with its inherent anarchy of production; to strive to further perfect the planned management of the economy and of the economic apparatus, for a closer coordination between the planning and organization of socialist competition; to constantly increase the effectiveness of socialist competition and to intensify its influence on economic and all social life, to utilize more fully its possibilities in the communist education of the working people; to disseminate more actively all that is new, progressive and born of the creative initiative of the masses.

The central papers and periodicals, TASS, USSR state television and radio and APN are to widely cover the 50th anniversary of the First 5-Year Plan.

The USSR Gosplan, USSR Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Social Sciences attached to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Academy of National Economy are to hold a scientific-practical conference devoted to the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the First 5-Year Plan for the development of the USSR national economy and to problems of further perfecting the planned management of the economy and the role of labor collectives in the planning and management of production. The board of directors of the USSR exhibition of national economic achievements, the USSR Gosplan, the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, the USSR Academy of Sciences, with the participation of the permanent representation of the USSR in CEMA, are to organize thematic displays in the pavilions at the exhibition of national economic achievements and at the CEMA Secretariat on "From the First 5-Year Plan to the Present--the Enthusiasm of Creation."

The CPSU Central Committee expresses its firm conviction that the staff of planning and economic bodies, supported by past experience and taking into account current demands in accordance with the decisions of the 25th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums, will apply all their energy and knowledge to make a worthy contribution to further perfecting the planning and functioning of the economic apparatus. There can be no doubt that the working people of the Soviet Union will mark the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the First 5-Year Plan by new labor successes, that they will make better use of and multiply the heroic experience accumulated by generations of fighters for the building of socialism and communism in our country.

MILITARY EXERCISES SCHEDULED FOR 2-7 APRIL IN UKRAINE

LD122140 Moscow TASS in English 2125 GMT 12 Mar 79 LD

["At the USSR Ministry of Defence"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 13, TASS--It is planned to hold exercises of troops of the Sub-Carpathian Military District in the Ukraine, in the area of the towns of Rovno, Ivano-Frankovsk and Zhitomir, in the period from April 2 to 7, with the aim of determining coordination of units and detachments of ground forces and aviation. It is expected that some 25,000 troops will take part in the exercises.

ARMENIAN RAYKOM FIRST SECRETARY REPLACED AT PLENUM

LD211437 Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 8 March 1979 p 2 LD

[Text] ARMENPRES--A plenum of the Sisianskiy Raykom has taken place, to examine an organizational question.

The plenum released Comrade K.A. Oganesyan from his duties as first secretary of the raykom in connection with his transfer to other work.

The plenum elected Comrade Shch. B. Davtyan, formerly second secretary of the raykom, first secretary of Sisianskiy Raykom.

Taking part in the plenum's work was Comrade M.B. Arzumanyan, candidate member of the Armenian CP Central Committee Bureau and chief of the Armenian CP Central Committee Party Organizational Work Department.

BRIEFS

VLADIVOSTOK DEVELOPMENT--Since the beginning of the 5-year plan the volume of industrial production in Vladivostok has increased by 15.4 percent and, in the past 3 years, R543 million worth of fixed capital has been commissioned in the city. The annual income of workers has increased by 8 percent and amounted to R265 a month per worker as compared to R245 in 1975. In 3 years, 830,000 square meters of housing were built in the city and nearly 20,000 families moved to new apartments. Six schools, three hospitals and preschool facilities for 2,800 children were built. [Vladivostok Domestic Service in Russian 2140 GMT 15 Feb 79 OW]

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 21 MARCH

LD220232 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0730 GMT on 21 March reports that about 150,000 hectares of cereals and pulses have been sown in the Kuban.

At 0800 GMT the radio reports that mass sowing of early grain and leguminous crops has started the Don in Rostovskaya Oblast and work is proceeding in over 20 rayons.

Farmers in Kazakhstan today completed preparation of grain crop and pulse seeds. Most of them are first and second class seeds. For the first time in the history of the republic, more than 3 million tons of seed have been brought to the sowing condition.

KIEV PAPER ADVISES HOW TO TEND WEAKENED WINTER CROPS

AU221133 [Editorial Report AU] Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian at 0810 GMT on 22 March says in its press review that "this year winter crops wintered under complex weather conditions. For this reason it is highly important for every farm to apply a set of measures to tend the seedlings in the spring, first of all to preserve the plants and to provide them with moisture and nutrients. Doctor in Agricultural Sciences Bodarenko, chief of the winter crop winter hardiness laboratory of the all-union scientific research institute for corn, in Silski Visti advises how to do this best."

Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian at 0500 GMT on 22 March reports that 20,000 hectares of early spring crops were sown in Odesskaya Oblast on 21 March alone. In the Black Sea region as a whole, 150,000 hectares of land have already been sown to peas, oats, barley and various mixtures. In Kharkovskaya Oblast, top-dressing has been applied on half of the area sown to winter crops.

KAZAKH CSA PUBLISHES FIRST DATA ON SPRING SOWING

AU211057 Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Russian 1510 GMT 20 Mar 79 AU

[Summary] "Today the republic's Central Statistical Administration published the first data concerning early spring crop sowing. At the moment, the campaign is developing in two oblasts, Dzhambulskaya and Chimkentskaya. By 19 March, the area sown in these oblasts, mostly with barley, had exceeded 67,000 hectares. In Chimkentskaya Oblast, spring wheat seeds have been embedded on the first 3,500 hectares. The planting of vegetable seedlings has also begun. Dzhambulskaya and Chimkentskaya oblast farmers have begun to sow fodder crops. Perennial and annual grasses have already been planted on over 5,000 hectares."

The structure of the cultivated area has been determined in Uralskaya Oblast. More than 200,000 hectares of land suitable for plowing in excess of the plan will be added to the area under grain crops. Pains will also be taken to improve farming practices and to increase yields. Only valuable variety wheat seeds will be used, such as the Saratovskaya-42, the Uralskaya Yubileynaya and others. The area of the soil protecting system will be expanded to nearly 1 million hectares. By accumulating and preserving moisture in the soil, this system increases per-hectare yields by up to 3 quintals of grain. Much snow has been retained in the fields.

SALYUT REPAIR, RESTORATION WORK AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

LD220836 Moscow TASS in English 1555 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 21, TASS--A TASS correspondent reports from Mission Control Centre:

Cosmonauts Vladimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin are continuing to fulfill the planned programme on board the Soviet research complex Salyut-6-Soyuz-32-Progress-5.

Repair and restoration work and work with the automatic cargo ship Progress-5 is being fulfilled ahead of schedule owing to the high capacity for work of the cosmonauts and their deep professional knowledge.

The unloading of the cargo ship has been fully completed.

A part of the scientific equipment delivered by the cargo ship has already been prepared for operation. In one of the compartments of the complex the crew has installed the Yelena compact gamma telescope and switched it on a number of times to try it out. With the help of this telescope it is planned to measure streams of gamma radiation and electrons in near-terrestrial space.

Yesterday the cosmonauts adjusted the portable colour TV camera. On completing this work the crew showed in its television programmes the inside of the station and, through a port hole, external elements of the complex. During visual observations today in accordance with the programme of studying the environment the cosmonauts transmitted to Mission Control Centre panoramas of individual sections of the land and sea surface and reported meteorological processes in the atmosphere of the earth.

Vladimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin have started work to move their onboard sextant to another porthole. In the evening they will replace the elastic shell of their shower stall with a new one that was delivered by the cargo space ship.

Despite the tense rhythm of work on board the station the two members of the crew, as it was assessed by medics, remain in high spirits and feel well.

The flight of the orbital complex continues.

BRIEFS

HELICOPTER TRIALS--Moscow, March 20, TASS--An ice reconnaissance helicopter, designed in the USSR, has been tested in polar night conditions at the atomic ice-breaker Sibir. This is one of the versions of the KA-25K helicopter which in its time drew the attention of specialists at the Paris air exhibition. The general course reconnaissance was conducted at a considerable distance from the ice-breaker--up to 200 kilometres. Aboard the ice-breaker there was electronic equipment which increases the efficiency of observation. Night time flights are extremely necessary in conditions when navigation in the Arctic now runs round-the-year, said deputy head of the administration of the Arctic sea route Gherman Burkov. Night-time reconnaissance will make it possible to lead caravans of ships faster, and with a higher efficiency. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1931 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD]